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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
The Marianas Printing Services in San Jose may likely be sold or close as all of its 12 longtime foreign workers are affected by CW1 crisis. The local company started in 1978, making it the first printing office in the CNMI.

DUE TO CONTINUING CW CRISIS:

# Marianas Printing may be sold or close

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owners of Marianas Printing Services, a local company that is the first printing office in the CNMI, will be forced to sell the company or shut it down as all its 12 longtime foreign workers are affected by the CW1 cap crisis.

"We cannot hire locals to take over the printing machine," said Tomasa Camacho who serves as secretary of the company located in San Jose. Her husband, Luis T. Camacho, is the company's president and manager.

Tomasa and Luis Camacho and two other family members are the only local employees of Marianas Printing.

Mrs. Camacho said the Department of Labor told them before that they have to train locals, but that it's hard to get locals interested in operating a printing machine unless there is a school for printing in the Commonwealth.

She pointed out that they cannot afford to apply for H-1 visas for their foreign workers, who are all Filipinos.

Mrs. Camacho said in the printing business, they need workers who know how to operate the machine who can even work every day as much as possible.

She said even her husband, Luis, went to Honolulu for training, but

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TORRES TOUTS CNMI ADVANTAGE:

## 'H-visa exemption offers quota-less skilled labor pool for tech industry'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has touted an H-visa system without a cap on workers, a business friendly tax system, and the CNMI's close proximity to Asian markets in a cover letter of sorts seeking interest from technology firms in developing an industry in the CNMI.

The CNMI's ailing power utility and undeveloped infrastructure already expected to groan and taxed under new hotel and casino developers would, however, present the most obvious and immediate obstacles, but Torres touts his administration's commitment to devote more resources to this area in the letter, which reads like a flyer seeking interested parties and comes attached with a local business resource guide.

The *Saipan Tribune* obtained copies of these documents yesterday.

Torres writes that the CNMI's geographic location to the Asian market, access to skilled labor, and

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US EPA TO CUC, BECQ:

## 'Over $1.4M in labor costs charged to grants unsupportable'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **EPA also slams regional office for lack of proper oversight**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general has found that labor charging practices for the grants received by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Division of Environmental Quality do not comply with federal grant requirements.

The inspector general, in a report released on Monday, recommends that EPA Region 9 disallow and recover over $1.4 million in "unsupported" labor costs.

It also slams the Region 9 officer for not providing adequate instruction to these local agencies and says their oversight was inconsistent over grants.

The inspector general called for improvements to in-kind and interagency agreement expenditure reporting and improving maintenance of Region 9 project officer files, which it says are not readily available to third parties.

The audit findings center on EPA "consolidate cooperative agreement, or CCAs, awarded to the DEQ and

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Kanoa Resort general manager Wendi Herring has joined the Marianas Tourism Education Council Board of Directors.
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The Philippine president-elect wants to know whether Washington will support the country in case of a possible confrontation with China in the disputed South China Sea.
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Fans of HBO's "Game of Thrones" will have the chance to immerse themselves in their favorite show next summer.
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# Local

## PH citizen takes court action to stop removal order

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Filipino mother, who has been in the CNMI for 22 years now and has two U.S. citizen children, has filed a court action in federal court in her last-ditch effort to stop being separated from her family as she was ordered deported early yesterday morning.

Amalia Abo Guanlao, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, filed on Tuesday a petition for writ of habeas corpus before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In Guanlao's petition, Woodruff requested the court to determine the legality of her continued detention and intended removal from the United States or the CNMI. Woodruff asked the court to immediately order a stay of Guanlao's removal during the pendency of this case as her removal would result in irreparable harm to her and her two U.S. citizen children.

With the filing of the petition, Manglona issued an order yesterday, directing Guanlao, through counsel Woodruff, to appear in court and show cause why this matter should not be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Manglona also ordered Woodruff to be prepared to discuss whether the petition is rendered moot if Guanlao has been removed from the U.S.

Manglona heard the order to show cause yesterday at 4pm. After listening to Woodruff's arguments, Manglona noted that Woodruff has not presented case law as to the issue of the court's jurisdiction.

The judge also pointed out, among other things, that she is sympathetic to a mother being separated from her children, but that Guanlao's immigration case did not just pop up two days ago, but actually began in 2011.

Manglona said she will issue a written order.

In the order to show cause, Manglona declined to issue an order staying removal proceedings.

"Indeed, it appears that the court lacks jurisdiction to issue such an order or to grant any relief to Guanlao at all," she said.

The judge said the Immigration and Nationality Act significantly limits the scope of district court judicial review of orders of removal.

Manglona, however, provided Guanlao, through Woodruff, an opportunity to argue why jurisdiction exists before dismissing the matter.

In Guanlao's preliminary response, Woodruff said the matter is not moot as Guanlao did not present herself to the airport yesterday morning as directed pursuant to the order of supervision and is still on Saipan.

Accordingly, Woodruff said, petitioner is in imminent jeopardy of arrest and being held in continuing physical custody until removed from the U.S.

"Arrest, physical detention, and actual removal from the United States will result in irreparable harm not only to petitioner but also to her U.S. citizen children, who not only were born on Saipan but have spent their entire lives here," he said.

Woodruff said Guanlao has not asked the court to make any ruling at all with respect to the removal order itself.

To the contrary, he said, petitioner principally seeks to vindicate specific rights given her by Congress in Title VII of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act as an alien lawfully present in the CNMI prior to Nov. 28, 2009.

According to the petition, Guanlao is married to another Filipino, Reynaldo M. Guanlao, who holds a valid CW-1 immigration status.

The couple has two U.S. citizen children, born on Saipan. Mrs. Guanlao has been a resident of the CNMI for 22 years. She was placed in removal proceedings by the Department of Homeland Security in March 2011.

Woodruff said Gerald Zedde, as U.S. Department of Homeland Security Saipan Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer for detention and removal operations, signed the notice to appear issued to Guanlao on March 25, 2011.

Woodruff said M. Samaniego is an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official who signed the order of supervision issued to Guanlao on May 8, 2016.

He said G. Andersenis is the Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportation officer who has ordered Guanlao to be at the airport at 2am yesterday, June 22, for removal from the U.S.

Woodruff said if petitioner does not so appear and depart as ordered, she will be hunted down, arrested, and held in detention until removed from the U.S.

Woodruff said accordingly, Guanlao is now presently in the constructive custody of ICE.

Woodruff said that on Nov. 28, 2009, a transition to federal control of immigration in the CNMI began and that on Nov. 27, 2009, petitioner was lawfully present in the CNMI pursuant to the immigration laws of the CNMI.

Guanlao, along with 120 other former employees, were plaintiffs in a civil action against La Mode Inc. in federal court.

Under Commonwealth law, Woodruff said, the pendency of this civil action gave Guanlao a legal right to live and work in the CNMI until final adjudication of the case.

Woodruff said Guanlao's claim against La Mode was not extinguished until June 9, 2011, when the lawsuit was dismissed with prejudice by stipulation of the parties in accord with a confidential settlement agreement.

Accordingly, Woodruff said, Guanlao was "lawfully present in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on the transition program effective date [Nov. 28, 2009]" and thus was expressly protected

*Continued on Next Page*

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### NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting set for Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the Saipan Mayor's Office Conference Room, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from May 19, 2016
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
III. **REPORTS**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. COMMITTEES
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
   1. SHEFA on Disability
   2. NMTI Hospitality and Culinary Arts Certificate Program
V. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Fall 2016 Application Status
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED)**
VII. **NEXT MEETING**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

SHEFA Application Deadline: **July 1, 2016**
SHEFA Deadline for supporting documents: **September 30, 2016.**

You can download the application and MOA from our website at www.saipanshefa.net or contact us at 233-5995 for more information.

*From Page 2*

by Congress from removal at least until June 8, 2011.

Woodruff said Guanlao had been granted an "umbrella permit" by order of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General prior to Nov. 28, 2009.

Woodruff said notwithstanding the explicit shield removal in the CNRA, Guanlao was placed in removal proceedings by DHS on March 15, 2011.

On June 6, 2010, prior to being placed in removal proceedings, petitioner prepared a letter request to USCIS for parole-in-place based on the ongoing litigation and her entitlement to an "umbrella permit" despite not having a document specifically so denominated.

This request was received by the USCIS Guam Field Office on June 15, 2010. Over a year later—after petitioner had been placed in removal proceedings—USCIS on Sept. 21, 2011, denied petitioner's request for parole-in-place based on an error of law—a conclusion that petitioner was not in lawful status on Nov. 27, 2009.

Woodruff said that, in 2012, Asia Adventure Corp. petitioned for CW-1 status for Guanlao, but it was ultimately denied, based on error in the interpretation and application of the law.

In May 2011, before USCIS had denied the first request for parole in place, petitioner again, by and through attorney Joe Hill, requested parole in place from the Guam Field Office.

Guanlao was subsequently served with an undated notice purporting to revoke her parole.

This notice, Woodruff said, contained a number of statements of questionable validity and purpose.

In September 2012, Woodruff said Guanlao applied for CW-2 status, which was ultimately denied, again as a result of error in USCIS understanding and application of the law.

Guanlao was represented in the removal proceedings by two attorneys. She was granted many continuances to allow various applications to be processed by USCIS.

On Aug. 24, 2013, Guanlao made a third application for parole-in-place to USCIS. That request was received at the Guam Field Office on Aug. 29, 2013, and denied on Sept. 24, 2013, after Guanlao had already been ordered removed.

On Sept. 10, 2013, the immigration judge ordered Guanlao removed.

Guanlao timely appealed the decision of the immigration judge to the Board of Immigration Appeals with the assistance of another lawyer, Alice Rae.

Woodruff said on appeal, Rae failed to point out the ineffective assistance of former counsel, failed to challenge the jurisdiction to institute removal proceedings, among other things.

On May 14, 2015, the BIA denied remand and dismissed the appeal.

On March 24, 2015, while Guanlao's appeal was pending with the BIA, QQ Car Rental petitioned for CW-1 status for her.

Woodruff said the petition was ultimately denied, based on similar error in the interpretation and application of law.

Rae sent to the BIA a notice an attempted motion to reopen claiming ineffective assistance of counsel, but the BIA rejected the motion on account of its filing on an appeal form.

In November 2015, a lawyer filed motions to reopen and for stay of removal with the BIA.

On March 2, 2016, the BIA denied the motions.

Woodruff said Guanlao's situation is precisely the kind of case that screams for an exercise of discretion, yet DHS and the immigration judge refused to even engage in an exercise of discretion.

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# Agroforestry project to enhance value chain of selected crops

**SUVA Fiji**—A four-year project to enhance value-added products and environmental benefits from agroforestry systems is being rolled out in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The AUD 2.4 million (FJD 3.7M) project will be implemented in partnership with University of the Sunshine Coast, Southern Cross University, the University of Adelaide and the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the ministries of agriculture and forestry in the four countries.

The new project aims to promote sustainable agriculture and agroforestry to replace unproductive and degraded land, and improve livelihoods and economic progress through rehabilitating degraded catchments in Fiji and Vanuatu.

It will also look at markets and opportunities for value-adding for agroforestry crops in all four project countries.

Speaking at the inception workshop in Fiji last week, the Director of SPC's Land Resources Division, Inoke Ratukalou, said this type of collaboration was not only crucial, but strategic in dealing with numerous challenges that Pacific communities face.

"Pacific development is complicated by geography and scale, and by a confluence of pressing national issues and regional cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, disasters, non-communicable diseases, gender equality and youth employment," Ratukalou said.

"We welcome SPC's involvement in this new initiative given its holistic approach to boosting development and economic empowerment," he added.

Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry for Fisheries and Forests, Samuela Lagatiaki, commented that agroforestry has great potential within the region to improve livelihoods for current and future generations.

"This project has a lot of key linkages to things we're doing now and also with the many projects we have done in the past. It is encouraging to see SPC, with other regional partners and funding from ACIAR, making this a priority and finding the resources to continue the work that we had been doing in this area.

"The timing for this workshop is very important for me as we are now in the planning phase for our new financial year, and we will soon start to finalize our plans to be able to get the key activities and outputs from this project integrated into our key planning, monitoring and reporting process," Lagatiaki said.

Further, Tony Bartlett, ACIAR's forestry program manager, also added that this project addresses important short term needs for farmers as well as assisting with longer term environmental outcomes.

"By enhancing opportunities for new value-added products from agroforestry systems, farmers will have improved incomes and by linking the tourism sector to reforestation programs more progress will be made in restoring degraded catchments," Bartlett said.

The project will also develop value-added products for markets involving women and the private sector, and will be led by Professor Helen Wallace of University of the Sunshine Coast and supported by Tevita Kete of SPC, Kevin Glencross and the country coordinators.

Set to conclude in 2019, the project has culminated from the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (PARDI) project and several small research activities that were undertaken under ACIAR. ***(PR)***

## PRINTING

*From Page 1*

still he is not allowed to touch the machine.

Mrs. Camacho said all the 12 affected workers have been in the company for 20 to 30 years now.

She disclosed that the foreign workers' CW1 permits will start expiring by next month.

"It's sad if we are going to close the printing [shop] because it is the first printing [shop] in the CNMI," she said, adding that the company started operating in 1978.

She said currently the company is struggling because there are plenty of competitors, but they still manage to run the daily operations.

Mrs. Camacho said some businesses are easy to operate, but printing is hard because skilled workers are needed.

She said the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must immediately do something otherwise a lot of businesses will be closing.

"What then? Only the Best Sunshine gonna grow up?" she said.

Mrs. Camacho said somebody just told them to just go ahead and file the CW1 applications for renewal of their workers.

She said that's what they did, but that they don't know if the applications will be approved.

She said she tried but failed to contact Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on what they could do to help the company.

"We're just waiting for the word and see what will happen. But I cannot afford H-1," Mrs. Camacho stressed.

She recalled she even tried to send home some of the workers, but it's very hard for her to choose which one would go because they have been in the company for 20 to 30 years and for her they are already like members of their family.

SN-5 Shipping Company, which delivers supplies to stores and residents on Tinian from Saipan, is expected to close shop next month as its workers are also affected by the CW1 crisis.

## H-VISA

*From Page 1*

preferential tax structure offer "unparalleled opportunities" of technology and expansion to the growing economies of the Asian-Pacific.

"Reaching out to you is part of a larger vision I have for the CNMI," Torres said. "I see our islands as a regional hub of information and technology that empowers American industries to realize the potential of the Asian market while encouraging innovation and creativity among the far reaches of the American flag."

"Toward this effort I offer the support of my administration to welcome you to our beautiful islands," he adds.

Torres says a prime strength of the CNMI to American industries is the geographic location of Asian markets, with an international airport on Saipan less than five hours away from the capitals of Japan, Korea, and China by plane.

Torres believes that with the CNMI's geographic location so close to Asian markets and the international date line (GMT+10), businesses have the potential to "operate around the clock to meet the ever-growing demands of the international economy, while still remaining on U.S. soil and under the protections of U.S. laws and Constitution, while doing business in U.S. currency."

The expansion of the tech industry in the U.S. also continues to rely on the availability of skilled workers, Torres also said.

Technology clusters throughout the country lists access to skilled labor as their highest priority for success and expansion, and the CNMI, under U.S. immigration laws, offers "tremendous possibilities" to firms through its exemption from H visa numerical limitations, including the essential H1-B visa.

Right now, the U.S Congress provides an annual quota allocation of 85,000 H1-B visas and every year these quotas are immediately filled by U.S. firms seeking to hire skilled workers to meet gaps between job openings and available U.S. workers.

"In current scenario, the CNMI has the potential to meet this demand for high-skilled workers," Torres said, "beyond the Congressional quota as long as the visa holder works and resides in the Commonwealth."

### Tax structure

Torres also touts "one of the most unique tax structures for business under the American flag."

The CNMI is considered a "mirror code" possession by the U.S. government, which means the CNMI's tax law mirrors that of the Internal Revenue Code and this allows for alterations to the federal income and corporate tax structure.

Businesses seeking to operate in the CNMI are required to report and pay income taxes on CNMI-sourced incomes but taxable entireness are entitled to a rebate on their federal income tax liability, a rebate that ranges from 50 percent to 90 percent depending on amount of tax paid.

The CNMI also has a business gross revenue tax on CNMI sourced income ranging from 1.5 percent to 5 percent.

Further, Torres touts the CNMI government's qualifying certificate program.

He said the QC program targets specific industries in line with economic development priorities of the CNMI.

"The CNMI's priorities include processing of high-technology products and Internet-related business and businesses engaged in Internet commerce.

Torres said investors could receive up to 100 percent in rebates and/or abatements on local taxes for up to 25 years.

### Infrastructure

Torres gives a commitment to continue to devote resources to development of 21st century infrastructure in the CNMI, saying that they are making great strides in securing stable power and internet connectivity in its three populated islands with a new fiber optic cable.

"Currently, the Northern Mariana Islands have a single fiber-optic cable that runs between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to the island of Guam. By early 2017, an additional fiber cable will be in place to provide secure access to the Internet at greater speed and more affordable costs to businesses and residents," Torres said.

"The Commonwealth government is committed to providing the essential infrastructure and support to make businesses succeed as we continue toward our vision of a vibrant, modern economy," he adds.

## OVER

*From Page 1*

CUC for fiscal year 2014 and prior.

On issues with labor-charges, EPA questions some $1.08 in unallowable labor and fringe benefit costs, and for CUC questions some $402,000 in unallowable labor and fringe benefit costs.

EPA says DEQ's charges were unallowable due to inadequate support and inadequate allocations of labor costs among multiple funding sources.

For CUC, labor and fringe benefits were unallowable due to the use of estimated allocations instead of "actual activities performed."

"DEQ staff believed they had corrected problems with labor charging practices by discontinuing timecards and implanting a labor distribution system. CUC staff believes their use of estimates was acceptable based on the Region 9 project officer's approval," EPA said.

But they explained, citing federal requirements, that when employees work on multiple grant activities their salaries must be distributed and supported by personnel activity reports, which the employees must sign.

Also, labor charges are to be based upon an after-the-fact distribution of actual activity and not on budgets.

EPA says DEQ's opting out of the use of timecards was an improvement but "it still did not capture all funding sources for allocation purposes."

The agency says the new system did not include a grant award and therefore fiscal year 2014 charges were unallowable.

### CUC labor charges

The EPA, pointing to the utility's accounting records, said CUC charged labor costs to the CCA based on estimated percentage of labor ranging from 65 to 90 percent of the employees salary.

These includes its grant officer, grant specialist, and chief engineer.

Although CUC has multiple sources of funding, these employees do no allocate their time by pay period among different cost objectives or funding sources, EPA said.

Instead, estimates are set in advance for a six-month timeframe.

"And there is no reconciliation by employees to actual activity," EPA said.

At the end of the six-month cycle, CUC's executive director signs a verification of hours worked.

Federal requirements demand that if employees work on multiple activities or cost objectives, distribution of wages and salaries must be supported by personnel activity reports, among others.

Such documents would be reviewed when employees work on more than one federal award.

Budget estimates or other distribution percentages determined before services do not qualify as support, EPA said.

### Inconsistent terms

The EPA also said that DEQ and CUC have inconsistent terms and conditions on agreement payment requirements for recipients to follow.

Region 9 oversight over CCA payments is also not consistent, EPA said.

Region 9 included some reimbursement terms in the agreements by placing an extra measure of control over recipient funds by requiring the recipient to submit draw requests to the EPA project officer for review and approval prior to payment.

"However, this extra measure of control was never completely implemented," EPA said. "Consequently, there was confusion among DEQ, CUC and Region 9 staff about how agreement payments were to be made and whether the reimbursement method of payment was required."

### Possible $1.8M misreported

The EPA said they identified inconsistencies in reporting on in-kind and interagency agreement costs by DEQ in federal financial reports.

Federal regulations and the CCA grants require accurate reporting of outlays in these financial reports, EPA said.

However, Region 9 did not provide adequate instructions to DEQ on reporting requirements for in-kind and IA costs.

Specifically, Region 9 did not provide DEQ with procedures on how to obtain EPA-expended in-kind and IA cost data, EPA said.

"As a result, over $1.8 million of in-kind and IA costs may have been misreported by DEQ," EPA said.

# Torres expected to sign divert airfield agreement today

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is expected to sign today a programmatic agreement with the Department of Defense for a proposed divert airfield in the CNMI.

Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, the single point of contact for Defense projects in the CNMI is set to meet with Torres this morning for the signing of the PA, which both have worked on over the last several months with Torres stressing language that favors Tinian as the preferred site of the project.

Programmatic agreements are essentially measures agreed to by consulting parties to protect and govern the use of historic properties affected by Defense projects.

The CNMI had sent its draft version Defense in early May and Torres indicated last week that they were in the final stages of the agreement. "Our request and our concerns have been addressed and so we are getting to where we believe it will protect the people of the CNMI—and not just today—but 40 years from now," Torres earlier said.

Torres

The final draft of the agreement is expected to include language that urges the Air Force to consider Torres' preferred siting of the divert project on Tinian over a Saipan option or a hybrid-use of both islands.

If the Saipan option was still chosen by Defense, the agreement is expected to require Defense to initiate another round of historic consultations, or Section 106 consultation process, with different parties to reach another programmatic agreement, potentially lengthening their project timelines.

Once the agreement is signed, the CNMI will wait a final "Record of Decision" on the project, which has been in work for years, and expects to undergo over a year-long negotiations through the Commonwealth Ports Authority with Defense for a lease of the required land on Tinian for the project.

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Saipan Tribune

## FOR ATTACKING TEACHER:

## Probable cause found to charge Tinian Mayor's Office worker

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges of a community worker at the Tinian Mayor's Office who was recently arrested on allegations that he threatened to kill a teacher for texting his girlfriend, blocking his car with his truck, and trying to side-swipe him to crash his car on Tinian.

Camacho

At a preliminary hearing, Camacho found probable cause to charge 52-year-old Marcus Genam Untalan with assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Camacho ordered Untalan to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be on June 27 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley called to the witness stand Tinian Police Detective Shawn Lee SN. Borja, who basically narrated to the court about their investigation into the incident that occurred last May 27.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Untalan.

According to court papers, Untalan used his vehicle to chase the victim, who was in his own vehicle, at high speed, forcing the victim to run his vehicle off the road to avoid a collision.

Untalan also allegedly threatened to kill the victim and attempted to punch him by swinging his closed fists at him.

Untalan also punched the driver's side of the victim's car with his fist causing damage to the vehicle.

He threatened to kill the victim and chased after the latter in his vehicle, causing the victim to fear for his life and contract law enforcement, according to court papers.

The teacher told police that Untalan tried to hit his car with his pickup truck, prompting him to drive off the road to avoid crashing. He said he somehow managed to get away and drove to the airport, where he sought police's help. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## 3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged three Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Hafa Adai Hotel, DPW Channel Bridge, and Da-Ichi Hotel.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

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# Igisomar wants to tweak medical marijuana bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) is looking to make revisions on Senate Bill 19-06, which proposes to legalize the medicinal use of marijuana in the CNMI. He said his revision will focus more on the controlled personal use of the psychoactive drug.

The medicinal use of marijuana supposedly treats glaucoma, epilepsy, chronic pain, muscle spasms, and reduce nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy, and improve the appetite of people with HIV/AIDS.

Igisomar said the bill is temporarily set aside for the moment as he works to include the comments that was gathered during the public hearings and the initiatives that he received from pre-personal use groups in the CNMI.

Igisomar

"From my point of view, the bill needs more work. It might need a major overhaul, since the more we work on it, the more we see loopholes. I want to make sure that when it becomes a law, that it actually works, that it would benefit the patients," said Igisomar.

He added that the Senate had to focus their attention to other issues like the Internet outage and helping people recover from Typhoon Soudelor. The Senate also helped in creating the drug court and supported the administration's programs on the war on ice.

Igisomar said he wanted people who are suffering to have continuous access to cheap medicinal marijuana. "I want it to be practical and cost-efficient where people who are sick and suffering from debilitating pain are able to access it for medicinal use as cheap and easy as they can."

Igisomar added that he doesn't want a half-baked bill where it was put hurriedly together, passed by the Legislature, and signed into law but it doesn't work. They also made some analyses and learned that legalizing the medicinal use of marijuana is cost prohibitive.

"We don't think it's going to make enough money that would be needed to hire more officers to enforce it. I believe that if you make the medicinal use of marijuana legal, the access for our youth will also be so big."

"That even though it is helping out the people that are sick, there will be greater impact to the students and the kids who will have access to it. If we refocus our attention and move away from medicinal and move toward personal use," Igisomar said.

"The legalization of personal use is really like, 'I want you to be able to take marijuana, plant it, and boil it.' I don't want you to go to the pharmacy and buy marijuana pill that would cost you hundreds of dollars. And that totally defeats the purpose."

He added pro-personal use groups in the CNMI did their research before giving him the documents so he could review them and then include recommendations from people behind the medicinal marijuana bill.

"The Legislature will not support the bill if there are groups who are fighting and pushing for their own agenda. We need a unified stand," said Igisomar.

## Crime Stoppers needs public's help on Gualo Rai robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery that occurred at an apartment complex located north of Subway, Gualo Rai Village.

On Friday, June 17, 2016, at 11pm, police responded to the incident and met with the victim, a Japanese female, age 48, with minor injuries.

The victim arrived at her apartment minutes before reporting the crime. She was off-loading her personal items from her car when she heard the suspect approach her from behind. The victim turned and saw the male suspect described as with a dark complexion, curly hair, about 5'6" to 5'10" tall, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark-colored shorts. The suspect grabbed the victim's purse. The victim screamed and attempted to hold on to her purse. The suspect yanked her purse from her arm causing her to fall to the ground.

The suspect got into a silver old model four-door sedan with the last three (3) digits of the license plate possibly being "746." The victim managed to get to the nearest phone and call the police to report the crime.

Items stolen include a Sony Ericson cell phone valued at $400, a beige Coach purse worth $300, a black "Burberoy" wallet, Japanese passport, credit cards, small pink notebook, and Mi-Fi unit. The victim sustained a small bruise to her right forearm and abrasions to her left elbow. The victim was treated by responding medics from DFEMS and refused transport.

The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

Anyone having information about these crimes, or any other crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

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Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

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Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

**Heavy Equipment Operator (20) $6.10 - $7.50/hour**
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

**Mason (20) $6.10 - $7.50/hour**
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

**Welder (5) $6.10 - $7.50/hour**
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

**Accounting Technician (05) $7.00- $9.33 per hour**
College graduate with a minimum of 2-5 years experience as an Accounting Technician. Capable of performing combines routine calculations, posting and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data to maintain accounting records.

**Architectural Drafter Technician (06) $6.10 - $8.25/hour**
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

**Machinist (02) $6.10 - $7.50/hour**
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC,INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2017 Plan is now available for review and the public comments from June 23, 2016 to June 29, 2016. Interested member of the general public may review the WIC 2017 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located at Mayoria Ave Building No. N-25. Our office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm (Monday – Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than June 29, 2016.**

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator

# Notorious thief gets 2 years in prison for 2 burglary, theft cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Johnny Basiente John, a notorious thief in Garapan, has entered a guilty plea to a burglary and theft cases, and slapped with a two-year prison term.

John, 29, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty on Tuesday to the offenses of theft, and assault and battery in the 2015 and 2016 cases, respectively.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio accepted the plea deal and sentenced John to a total of two years.

The defendant was given credit for 180 days. He was remanded to the Department of Corrections. His release date is Dec. 23, 2017.

After serving the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation for five years. During the probationary period, he will be required to pay $7,000 in restitution to the victim, Zheng Hua.

John was ordered to pay a $100 fine, $500 in probation fee, and $100 in court assessment fee. He was required to perform 100 hours of community work service and complete any recommended counseling by the Community Guidance Center.

John was ordered to write a letter of apology to victims Zheng Hua and Guiming Zheng.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, John stole a wallet containing $7,000 cash, identification cards, bank cards, and documents belonging to Hua in Garapan, Saipan on April 14, 2015.

John also unlawfully struck Mr. Zheng with a rock, causing a scratch on his finger in Garapan on Jan. 3, 2016.

As part of the plea deal, the government moved to dismiss the remaining charges in the 2015 case. The court granted the motion.

Acting chief prosecutor Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government. Richard Pierce is the court-appointed counsel for John.

In the 2016 case, police officer John Cabrera chased and arrested John, who ran away after burglarizing New Double Luck Restaurant in Garapan and trying to hit the owner, Zheng, with a rock.

Cabrera found John hiding under a tree covered with heavy vines and bushes near YP Apartment in Garapan.

In the 2015 case, police arrested John for stealing Miss Hua's wallet containing $7,000 and other items and threatened her with a knife at Body Works Massage in Garapan on April 14, 2015.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan identified John as the culprit after reviewing the footage of a surveillance camera.

During follow-up operation, police subsequently found John and recovered from him the victim's identification cards and bank cards, and a stolen bicycle.

According to court documents, John has previous criminal convictions, mostly burglary and theft when he was still a juvenile.

# Tanapag Middle School registration ongoing

The Tanapag Middle School registration for School Year 2016-2017 is now ongoing. All students—returning and new—must submit a registration packet. Packets can be attained from the TMS main office. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday. All registration packets must be submitted in full to process enrollment. Deadline for registration is July 29. ***(PR)***

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**Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Banquet Hall - Azucena**

**Hotel Operations**

| | |
|---|---|
| Executive Housekeeper | 1 |
| Assistant Executive Housekeeper | 1 |
| Room Attendant | 80 |
| Room Maintenance Handyman | 10 |
| Manager - Public Area | 1 |
| Public Area Cleaner | 60 |
| Manager - Wardrobe | 1 |
| Wardrobe Attendant | 20 |
| Seamstress | 5 |
| Manager - Laundry | 1 |
| Supervisor - Laundry | 2 |
| Coordinator - Laundry | 1 |
| Laundry Attendant | 15 |
| Laundry Runner | 5 |

**Hospitality**

| | |
|---|---|
| Administrative Assistant | 1 |
| VIP Driver | 15 |
| Tour Operator | 5 |

**Purchasing**

| | |
|---|---|
| Manager - Purchasing | 1 |

**Legal and Compliance**

| | |
|---|---|
| Head of Compliance (AML) | 1 |

**Finance**

| | |
|---|---|
| Assistant Vice President / Vice President - Group Taxation | 1 |
| Gaming Auditor | 3 |

**Food & Beverage**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hygiene Manager | 1 |
| Restaurant Manager - Employee Dining | 1 |
| Restaurant Manager - Northern Chinese Restaurant | 1 |

**Food & Beverage**

| | |
|---|---|
| Restaurant Manager - Cantonese Restaurant | 1 |
| Restaurant Manager - Buffet & All Day Dining | 1 |
| Assistant Restaurant Manager - Chinese | 4 |
| Assistant Restaurant Manager - Buffet & All Day Dining | 3 |
| Restaurant Supervisor - Chinese | 11 |
| Server I | 19 |
| Server II | 19 |
| Chef de Cuisine - Buffet & All Day Dining | 1 |
| Chef de Cuisine - Northern Chinese Restaurant | 1 |
| Chef de Cuisine - Cantonese Restaurant | 1 |
| Sous Chef - Buffet & All Day Dining | 4 |

**Food & Beverage**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sous Chef - Northern Chinese Restaurant | 2 |
| Sous Chef - Cantonese Restaurant | 2 |
| Junior Sous Chef - Buffet & All Day Dining | 2 |
| Junior Sous Chef - Northern Chinese Restaurant | 2 |
| Junior Sous Chef - Cantonese Restaurant | 1 |
| Chef de Partie - Buffet & All Day Dining | 4 |
| Chef de Partie - Northern Chinese Restaurant | 3 |
| Chef de Partie - Cantonese Restaurant | 3 |
| Demi Chef - Chinese Cuisines | 11 |
| Commis I - Chinese Cuisines | 14 |
| Steward Manager | 1 |

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# NMI agencies attend typhoon preparedness workshop

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DENNIS B. CHAN
Federal Emergency Management Agency regional administrator Robert Fenton and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speak to reporters during a FEMA workshop on disaster recovery plans at the Fiesta Resort & Spa last week.

CNMI agencies involved in responding to disasters attended a two-day Typhoon Readiness and Planning Workshop last week. The workshop is part of the CNMI Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 9's program aimed at preparing people for natural disasters.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and multi-group Commonwealth Advocates fore Recovery Efforts were some of the agencies that attended the workshop, which was held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

FEMA Region 9 administrator Bob Fenton, Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'ina, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director and CARE treasurer John Hirsch were the speakers.

In an interview after CARE's meeting last Tuesday at the conference room at the Governor's Office in Capital Hill, Hegland said the workshop is the first step of a yearlong catastrophic planning process.

"The goal is to bring together agencies that are involved in responding to natural disasters in developing a solid plan for typhoon preparedness," said Hegland.

"It also helped us learn more about the capacity to respond by the [U.S. Department of Defense] and the whole community approach in times of disasters. The private sector has a lot of resources that the government and the people could turn to," she added.

Administering mass care to the community, public assistance, serving the survivors, and learning how to collaborate with other agencies are some of the highlights of the workshop.

CARE continues to receive monetary donations from various groups that would be used to fund the rebuild and repair projects of the remaining homes that were damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor.

The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, through local caretaker the Ayuda Network, donated $15,000 as contribution for the long-term recovery of Saipan. CARE is also expecting $70,000 from the Governor's Office.

CARE has received some $277,950 in cash and in-kind donations where $181,838 was already spent in providing assistance to typhoon victims, while $80,000 of the remaining $96,112 is already obligated. Joeten Ace Hardware and Bridge Capital, LLC had a combined in-kind donation of $50,000.

# Passage of Nauru child protection law welcomed

**SUVA, Fiji**—Child protection and welfare legislation passed by the Nauru Parliament will provide a family and community-based safety net for vulnerable children in need of care, and put in place comprehensive measures to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect and exploitation.

The Pacific Community (SPC) has welcomed the passage of Nauru's *Child Protection and Welfare Act* this month and is now focused on supporting the introduction of the new law.

UNICEF Pacific research in 2014, shows that as many as 8 out of 10 children throughout the Pacific region experience violence or abuse at some point in their life, at home, school or in their community.

As in the rest of the world, children in the Pacific need protection from sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, child trafficking, child labour and sexual abuse, with the prevalence of sexual abuse in the region ranging from 11-22 percent for girls and 3-16.5 percent for boys, according to UNICEF.

Children also face new forms of violence, including cyber-bullying through Internet and mobile phones. Suicides of young people, especially young men, are also on the rise.

While all Pacific Island countries have ratified the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Nauru becomes one of only four countries to have domesticated this convention by enacting child protection laws, along with Fiji, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea.

"More Pacific Island nations are taking urgent action to protect children and create a safe and secure environment where children can thrive, and SPC congratulates Nauru on the bold action it is taking," RRRT Director, Mark Atterton, said.

"Legislation is a fundamental step in creating an enabling and protective environment, along with community attitudes, cultural and normative change," he said.

In this regard, SPC, through RRRT, will continue to work with the Nauru Government, and with UNICEF Pacific who assisted with drafting the Act, to help ensure the new legislation is fully implemented and to shift community attitudes towards children's rights.

On welcoming the new legislation, UNICEF Pacific Representative, Dr. Karen Allen, noted that, "this Act brings Nauru into alignment with many international standards, including raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls."

"In particular, we welcome the mandatory reporting of any sexual abuse or exploitation of a child by persons in authority in a school, church or other religious institution, health facility, prison, detention or corrections facility, or any other place where children are supervised or cared. This sends a strong signal that sexual abuse or exploitation will not be tolerated—and supports child victims to safely report abuse and seek help," Allen said.

RRRT has been working with the national Child Protection Unit to develop a manual and reporting procedures for police responses to child abuse cases.

RRRT Country Focal Officer in Nauru, Stella Duburiya, has also been supporting the Child Protection Unit to review job descriptions for new staff to be recruited into unit.

Additionally, in March this year RRRT delivered to Nauru a draft *Family Protection Bill*, which SPC was request to draft, as part of the Nauru Government's suite of child and family protection measures.

Due to go through a consultation period in the coming months, the *Family Protection Bill* makes domestic violence a crime and provides women with access to Emergency, Temporary and Permanent Protection Orders against perpetrators of violence. ***(PR)***

## Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### June 23, 2000

#### DPH assures Tanapag residents of thorough health evaluation

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday assured Tanapag residents that the department will carry out a thorough analysis of the effects of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination based on the medical evaluation conducted among the people in the village. Mr. Villagomez said he will send some blood samples taken from the residents for independent analysis and comparison to another laboratory, a recommendation which was earlier made by the head of the medical team currently handling the ongoing health evaluation in Tanapag. "We are not going to shortchange the people or stop halfway but we will need to wait for all the results to come out before we make any specific decisions on what to do," he said. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is being eyed to fund for the planned congener-specific testing that will be performed on some of the residents who would have high levels of PCB based on the results of their blood analysis.

#### PSS draws up plan for performance appraisal

In a move to make a comprehensive evaluation on the quality of school administrators and teachers in the Public School System Education, Commissioner Rita H. Inos is devising a plan to create a schoolwide performance appraisal assessment for teachers and principals. The evaluation will allow both teachers and administrators to evaluate themselves and their colleagues for the first time in the history of PSS. Lacking the appropriate personnel to oversee the responsibility, the commissioner's office is currently tapping resources to be able to produce the staff that would administer the evaluation process. Dr. Inos also said she has yet to hold dialogues with school teachers and principals before initiating the plan.

### June 23, 2004

#### Board awaits advice on Lab School

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents is waiting for the recommendation of the NMC administration on issues surrounding the college's Lab School. NMC board chair Kimberlyn-King Hinds said that, while acting NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero has already briefed the board on the school, it has not received any recommendation on specific actions such as the hiring of three teachers for the upcoming school year. "We'll hear from the president," she said. As far as the Lab School parents' call for a meeting with the board, she said, "I have an open-door policy." However, she said she prefers it if the group first talk with the NMC administration. "I have an open-door policy, but steps need to be taken first before going up to the board."

#### DOI awaits Pagan study grant application

The Department of the Interior is just awaiting any grant application from the CNMI for the proposed feasibility study on pozzolan mining at Mt. Pagan.

When asked, DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs David Cohen said the department would look at such application, but he is personally not aware if it has been submitted. " I don't know if our officers received it. We would certainly [entertain it] and give it consideration," he said. Usually, he said the department would see if it has funding to support such project. MPLA said it is taking due diligence in reviewing the proposals to ensure the success of the project.

### June 23, 2005

#### Mobil hikes fuel prices anew

days after Shell announced taking on a similar price adjustment in pump prices.

But Mobil spokesperson Cecile Bamba Suda said the price of diesel only increased by 3 cents per gallon. Quoting Mobil retail manager Bernadette Valencia, Suda said regional prices pushed up local pump prices. Mobil advised motorists to maintain their vehicles in good condition to ensure efficient fuel consumption. Mobil's full-serve gallon rate for unleaded and super unleaded gasoline now reaches $2.909 and $3.029; and self-serve—$2.739 and $2.869, respectively. Mobil retail stations on Saipan now peg diesel prices at full-serve and self-serve rates at $3.009 and $2.959.

#### Anatahan emits thick ash plume

Anatahan's erupting volcano emitted thick ash clouds Wednesday, but the activity subsided slightly yesterday. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Emergency Management Office said thicker ash clouds became evident through the Air Force Weather Agency's satellite imagery. The activity lasted about four hours. The volcano then started to emit thick ash clouds again late Wednesday night, the agencies said. Yesterday, the volcano released "moderately dense" cloud of ash and steam that rose to about 5,000 feet. The plume extended about 150 nautical miles to the west, the agencies said.

# Torres eyes more funding to promote culture

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is hoping to provide additional funding to support programs that would promote and bring back awareness to the local indigenous cultures of both the Chamorro and Carolinian or Refaluwasch communities.

The arrival of the traditional navigators from Satawal Island in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia and Guam's hosting of the 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts buoyed Torres' plan.

"I would like to create and support a program to bring back awareness of the traditional culture. Both the Carolinian and Chamorro. Teach the kids of their history," said Torres.

Torres said that having classes or teaching the traditional way of navigating the seas, as used by their ancestors, to the youth would keep the tradition going.

"This are good programs and programs like this need to be supported in order for our youth to learn about the past," said Torres.

Sesario Sewralur, the son of legendary master traditional navigator Pius Mau Piailug, and several others from Satawal held some lessons for school kids and interested individuals when they made a two-week long stop on Saipan on their way to Guam.

Sewralur is the captain of the *Alingano Maisu*, a double-hulled voyaging canoe that traveled for 54 days from Koror, Palau to Saipan. They made brief stops in Ngulu Atoll, Woleai, Ifaluk, Elato, Lamotrek, and Satawal to pick up supplies.

They again took a break on Saipan after attending the FestPac and gave a traditional canoe, Makali'i, to the CNMI before heading back to Satawal. Piailug formerly commanded the said canoe.

Torres said he wants the offices of the Indigenous and Carolinian Affairs to receive the additional funding. "We wanted to prioritize these offices, these organizations that promote cultural heritage to build stronger relationship in the community."

He added that the veterans, women's, and youth are the other offices that he wanted to get more funding and support.

JON PEREZ
Marianas High School students of Carolinian decent weave headgear made out of coconut fronds during their cultural day early this year.

# *Pasifika Plates*: Promoting healthy Pacific food

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga**— The Pacific Community (SPC) is releasing a potentially life-changing cookbook to promote healthy eating to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Pacific Islands.

The *Pasifika Plates* cookbook has been launched today in Tonga at a high-level summit examining responses to the NCD crisis in the Pacific region.

Up to 75 per cent of deaths in Pacific countries are related to NCDs, such as diabetes and heart diseases, with unhealthy diets and lifestyles seen as important contributing factors.

Many Pacific Islanders are turning away from their healthy and nutritious local foods in favour of nutrient-poor, packaged foods that are high in unhealthy fats and added salt and sugar.

This new cookbook presents an innovative way to promote healthy eating in the Pacific.

Produced by SPC's Public Health Division, it supports connections between agriculture and good health by highlighting the "grow local, eat local" message and promotes livelihood opportunities for local farmers by creating awareness and demand for nutritious local produce.

"Poor quality food is making people sick, and young Pacific generations are growing up in this environment," the Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said.

"*Pasifika Plates* encourages Pacific people to return to their culinary roots, literally, by emphasising and promoting traditional crops and other nutritious foods that thrive on their islands.

"By promoting healthy food choices, SPC hopes *Pasifika Plates* will empower individuals in their efforts to prevent and control diseases like diabetes and heart disease.

"We also hope it will encourage people in the Pacific to take pride in the food our land and oceans provide and encourage healthy lifestyles," Dr. Tukuitonga added.

*Pasifika Plates* contains over 40 delicious recipes from around the islands, easy health and nutrition tips, a gardening guide, special contributions from well-known Pacific chefs like Robert Oliver and Dom Samsom, and photos that showcase the natural beauty of our local produce.

SPC acknowledges the support of the Australian Government, Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services and colleagues from around the region, who have contributed to producing *Pasifika Plates*.

The first ever Pacific NCD Summit, from 20-22 June, is a collaboration between the Kingdom of Tonga and SPC, supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the New Zealand Aid Programme, the Government of the United States, the World Bank, the World Diabetes Foundation, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The 50-page cookbook is available online or hard copies may be ordered from SPC headquarters in Noumea from pubs@spc.int (postage and handling charges apply). ***(PR)***

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Puerto Rico's mess: No US bailout for bad borrowing (and lending)

The government of Puerto Rico owes its creditors some $73 billion in debt it can't pay, facing default on $2 billion of it due July 1.

The question is, who pays or who eats the debt? The three alternatives are the Puerto Ricans who borrowed the money they now can't pay back. Or the vulture hedge funds that loaned them the money they knew the Puerto Ricans couldn't pay back? Or the American taxpayer in the form of the federal government in Washington, under pressure from lobbyists through the Congress to come up with a big bailout?

Puerto Rico, an American territory with a population 3.5 million, got itself into this mess through continuing to buy municipal bonds in the face of falling government revenue to prevent cuts in services and layoffs of public service workers. In 2000, its debt stood at $25 billion. By 2008, early in the recession, it had risen to $53 billion. Now it stands at $73 billion.

More than half of that is believed to be owed to 44 investment funds, some of them respectable like Oppenheimer and Franklin Templeton, some of them so-called vulture firms, based on the bird that scavenges carcasses on the highway or in the forest. Hedge funds buy debt from economically ruined entities such as Argentina, Greece, Detroit and Ukraine at bargain rates and then lobby or sue to get paid at face value by international banks or countries that agree to bail out the distressed debtor.

Puerto Rico's municipal bonds are tax-exempt, free of taxes to be paid to federal, state or local bodies by the holder, making them doubly attractive to lenders who are not picky in incurring risk.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week rejected a bid by Puerto Rico to restructure some of its debt, an effort to dodge the bullet, suggesting that Congress was the only answer to the island's dilemma. Puerto Rico cannot file for bankruptcy.

Lobbyists for the hedge funds are now putting pressure on members of Congress to use federal money to bail Puerto Rico out. Lobbyists in the past have included former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Chelsea Clinton. The political threat they are using is that, if Puerto Rico is not bailed out, thousands of its population will emigrate to the mainland.

The island has a weak economy and inefficient if not crooked government. Federal control, which is one option being looked at, includes an external appointed oversight board, which the Puerto Ricans oppose.

Why not just let the hedge funds and the Puerto Ricans accept the consequences of their irresponsible borrowing?

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# What other gun rules could have stopped killer?

**By GEORGE PARRY**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

In the wake of the Orlando, Fla., nightclub atrocity, President Barack Obama has admonished us to "do some soul-searching" about how "easy" it is in this country to obtain firearms. Just so. But if we are to do an honest examination of conscience, we must begin with the facts.

Omar Mateen, the Orlando jihadist, slaughtered his victims with a Sig Sauer MCX rifle, an AR-15-style rifle, and a Glock handgun. Contrary to mainstream media hysteria, neither is a machine gun, a category of weapon that has been illegal to purchase or possess since 1934. Each is, instead, a semiautomatic firearm, i.e., one pull of the trigger fires but a single round of ammunition.

From that standpoint, as a matter of substance as opposed to cosmetics, the Sig Sauer MCX is not different from the millions of semiautomatic rifles that Americans have owned and possessed since the early 1900s. While the Sig Sauer may look like a military-grade machine gun, it is not. Think of it as a Volkswagen Beetle dressed up to look like a Maserati.

This is not to deny that Mateen was able to cause tremendous mayhem using these semiautomatic weapons. They are most certainly dangerous implements capable of spreading death and carnage. But they are no more dangerous than any other semiautomatic gun.

How was Mateen able to obtain such dangerous weapons? He bought them at a gun store.

Commercial sales of firearms are regulated by federal and state law. A firearms vendor must hold a license issued by the federal government and must — in conjunction with federal law enforcement authorities — conduct a background check of anyone attempting to purchase a gun.

A purchaser must verify in writing and under penalty of law that, among other things, he is not under criminal indictment; a convicted criminal; a fugitive from justice; a drug addict or user of controlled substances; an adjudicated mental defective; a former inmate of a mental institution; someone who was dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces; or subject to a court order restraining him from stalking, harassing or threatening his child or "intimate partner." He must also verify under oath that he has never been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, has never renounced his U.S. citizenship and is not an illegal alien.

All of the foregoing sworn information is then checked against the FBI's records. If the purchaser is cleared by the FBI, then the sale may be completed. The seller, however, may also decline to make the sale for any reason up to and including the purchaser's looks, behavior or demeanor.

Moreover, in the Orlando case, Mateen held a concealed-weapons license issued by the state of Florida. To obtain that, he had to be fingerprinted and photographed and to undergo a background investigation by Florida authorities. Also, in a bit of stomach-churning irony, he was required by Florida to undergo firearm safety training. Since he purchased his handgun in Palm Beach County, he was subject to a five-day waiting period before he could take delivery.

Finally, Mateen was a security officer employed by a private firm that holds contracts with the Department of Homeland Security. Presumably his employer took additional measures to determine Mateen's fitness for duty and possession of a weapon, but, as of publication, the nature and extent of that vetting have not been made public.

In light of these facts, it is fair to ask what further safeguards, procedures or restrictions on the purchase, ownership or possession of firearms would have prevented the Orlando carnage. For example, advocates of what they call "commonsense gun control" argue that anyone on a terrorist watch list should not be permitted to legally buy a gun. Fair enough, but would such a prohibition be effective? Or would a determined terrorist such as Mateen simply resort to using a straw purchaser, a practice that has been used successfully by felons, drug users, wife beaters and others to evade existing legal restrictions?

Should we follow Europe's example of banning possession of firearms by civilians? If so, isn't it fair to ask how the Paris jihadis were able to gun down and murder 129 infidels and wound another 368 at the Bataclan nightclub in November?

Putting aside the mandate of the Second Amendment, we must recognize that there are 90 million law-abiding Americans who legally possess an estimated 300 million firearms and who

*See GUN on Page 11*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Repeal Public Law 110-229

The current situation with no-resident workers in the CNMI is an embarrassment to the Commonwealth and to the United States Congress.

Governor Torres has appropriately addressed the issue to President Obama, according to Sec. 902 of the Covenant. However, the problem lies with Congress, not with the administration.

The problem was created with knee-jerk legislation tacked onto the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 as S. 2739: *A bill to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes*, signed into law by President George W. Bush on May 8, 2008, becoming U.S. Public Law 110-229. It successfully killed the garment industry in the CNMI, costing our government 1/3 of its annual revenues, as verified by the Government Accounting Office. The American Textile Industry lobbyist successfully shut down the garment industry on Saipan and moved it to foreign countries, costing American taxpayers millions of dollars in food stamps for Saipan.

It also gave the federal government control over the economic development of the CNMI by controlling the nonresident worker force. Every study conducted by the U.S. government relative to providing economic development for the NMI has recognized the need for nonresident workers. It was integral to establishing the Covenant, paving the way for the development of a tourism industry.

The CW system was a failure from the day it was conceived, because the feds could not create appropriate regulations in a timely fashion. The CNMI lost a hotel-casino development on Tinian almost immediately. Now, long-established small businesses throughout the Commonwealth, the heart-blood of our islands, will be forced out of business because new construction companies on Saipan have eaten up all the available slots, and the feds failed to make allowances for renewing the workers who built our current economy. That just ain't right.

Instead of negotiating for an increased cap in CW workers, the CNMI should be lobbying with Congress to repeal that section of PL 110-229 relative to federalizing immigration and return control over immigration in the CNMI to the CNMI government. To stimulate that action, the governor might consider requesting the Attorney General to file a TRO against the federal government to stop all actions relative to the CW workers, and ensure that those employees who have been working productively in the CNMI since even before George Jr. arrived on the scene will be able to continue to work and keep our small businesses operational.

If even one CNMI CW family is torn apart because nonresident parents who are legally in the Commonwealth are repatriated and forced to leave their U.S. citizen children behind, while there are millions of illegal immigrants working in mainland America, lawsuits would be in order, and Speaker Paul Ryan the U.S. Congress must hang their head in shame.

**Don Farrell**
*Marpo Height, Tinian*

# Parents be prepared!

My bubble burst when I was told that one of my children needed to be referred off-island for appropriate medical care. After years of advocating on behalf of other people's children, suddenly the stakes became far more personal... and my own child became at-risk of not receiving appropriate care. Now more than ever, I believe that all families with children need to plan for what will happen in case of a medical emergency.

It doesn't matter whether you are a single parent, a two-parent family or a large extended family household—you must have a plan in place. A plan will make sure your child is well cared for when a medical situation arises.

There are several good reasons to organize the paperwork you have about your child's diagnosis or disability. For one, applications for some government programs such as Medical Referral require detailed information about a child's medical history and treatment—it will be easier to find and refer to information if you keep it in one central location. Also, when you are advocating (speaking up) on behalf of your child, you often need to prove there is a need—keeping your records and reports organized will help you with this.

The following is a helpful list of tips/information that save me time and help to speed up the process of getting my child the care she needs:

■ **Information sharing:** Sharing information between educators and doctors is important for the coordinated care of your child. It is easier when you can make sure everyone has the latest plan, progress report or test if you have it handy.

■ **Medical history form:** This form lists the medications your child is taking, allergies she may have as well as any past and current medical conditions. Bring this form with you and give to the physician. I found that for every new doctor my child was sent to, I had to repeat her medical history.

■ **Insurance policy:** Work closely with your health insurance provider to insure that it covers medical problems abroad to where your child is being referred.

■ **Consent forms:** Include consent forms to allow professionals to exchange information about your child and consent for evaluation forms.

■ **Medical evaluation results:** Often when your child has a medical procedure or test you get the results over the phone. Ask the office if you can receive a written report. If not, enter the results in your records.

■ **Developmental/educational evaluation results:** Usually with educational testing you will receive a copy of the results as part of the planning process. If educational professionals conduct informal observations or assessments, ask for a written report.

■ **Medications:** Whenever your child is prescribed a medication, record the name of the drug, the dosage and how often your child is supposed to take it. Also record the name of the doctor who prescribed it and the date, and be sure to keep track of any reactions your child has to the drug.

■ **Specialists:** Keep their names and contact information handy. Some people keep specialists' business cards to organize this information.

■ **Financial information:** Keep records for how much you have paid or owe on medical, therapy and other expenses. This can help determine your eligibility for certain programs, or the amount you have to pay to receive services.

■ **Reading materials:** Last, but not least, make sure you have a book, magazine, or a newspaper to read while you are waiting for results or to see a physician. It will make the time pass more quickly and help keep your stress level lower.

In many families responsibilities are divided between partners. Write things down ahead of time to make it easier for one partner to step in if the other partner is away. Think about all the details of your family routines that you would need to tell someone if you weren't there to keep things running—then put them on paper as written instructions.

As you create your plan, find friends, neighbors or family members who will be available to step in if help is needed. Make sure emergency contact information and detailed instructions are in place and written down.

This may sound time consuming, but I find that it helps save me from having to repeat myself as my daughter is being referred from one doctor to another.

For more information on the above topic and other disability-related information, please contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273 or (670) 235-7274 and via the internet at www.nmpasi.org.

**Elsie Tilipao**
*NMPASI client advocate*

# The need for more public services

I am writing this letter reminding the indigenous people of Saipan that the election is getting close. As a voting citizen, I urge all the people of the CNMI to go out and register to vote in the upcoming 2016 midterm election.

We have to change the incumbent elected officials because nothing has been done to improve our lives other than sitting pretty up at the legislature and prioritized their own agenda. Especially when it comes to focusing on foreign investors such as the casino industry.

They forgot that these investors would just milk up their pockets and just leave us when their time comes. All these elected officials prioritized improving the infrastructures of these foreign investors. They forgot about us. So whenever they come knocking on your doors, ask them what are they going to offer us this election to benefit the local people? Stand up and stop being brainwashed about jobs, retirement, etc.

We need public service to be improved such as food stamp, Leap, WIC, health issues such as medical referral etc. An example, precinct 5 area, the main core of people in this area is mostly in the heart of Kagman 1, 2, 3, and 4. Enough of bushcutting along the road. We need public service. The unfortunate residents who are not working and without cars and especially the refaluwasch community are being totally ignored. We need new and young ideas for the betterment of the people of Kagman. They are still people that still lives under the tent…these are an example that needs help. The theme for this upcoming election when the reelectionist comes or approached you and your vote that is "where were you after typhoon soudelor of 2016?" Representative Guerrero should advise his community workers not to use political banner as a sign for people to see while working along the road in precinct 5. Luckily the attorney general or the public auditor haven't seen it. People in precinct 5 are talking about it.

**Mr. P. Taitano**
*Precinct 5*

## GUN

*From Page 10*

pose no demonstrable threat to their fellow citizens. Are they to be turned into outlaws by legislative or executive fiat? And are these newly minted criminals then to be stripped of their weapons? If so, how would that be done? By force of arms?

If even a fraction of that 90 million were to resist confiscation of their weapons, does the government have the police, military, judicial and penal resources to search, disarm, arrest, prosecute and punish that vast legion of otherwise law-abiding citizens? Would the law-enforcement establishment willingly undertake such punitive actions? We have already seen substantial numbers of gun owners in Connecticut and New York openly defy hastily enacted antigun laws imposed in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Faced with other more pressing threats to public order, police and sheriffs' departments in those states have wisely elected not to risk the mayhem that could very well result if they attempted to arrest and disarm defiant gun owners.

And even if the government somehow managed to confiscate all 300 million legally owned firearms, what about the untold and uncounted millions of firearms already in the hands of criminals? So far, law enforcement has been unable to effectively prevent the possession and use of guns by our domestic criminal class. Should we expect a different result when dealing with bloodthirsty jihadis hell-bent on mass murder?

These are but some of the questions that must be answered. To ignore them is to engage in magical thinking whereby the very real threats posed by armed terrorists and criminals can be defeated by simply passing a law.

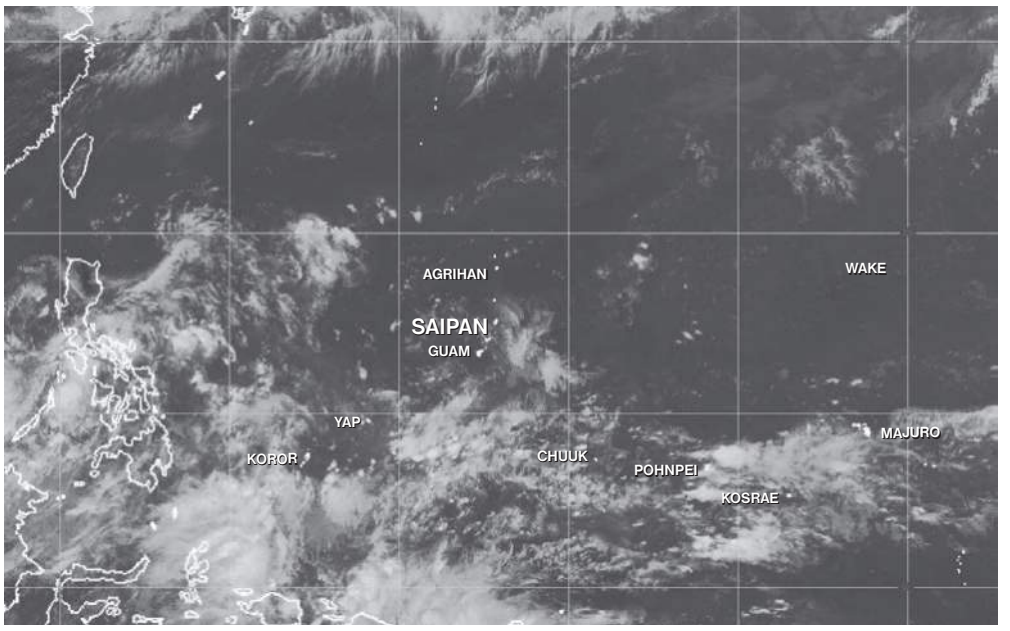
If only life were that neat and easy.

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼77° | ▲89° ▼78° | ▲89° ▼78° | ▲90° ▼80° | ▲90° ▼80° |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends east-southeastward from a weak circulation centered near Mindanao at 7N125E to end south of Koror near 2N136E. Divergence associated with an upper-level low west of Guam near 13N142E is interacting with the trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Palau and south of Yap west of a line from 11N135E to 5N139E to EQ135E. Isolated thunderstorms are also found north of the upper-level low between 18N and 21N from 134E to 139E. A trade-wind disturbance extends northwestward from near EQ148E to end northeast of Yap near 12N141E. Converging winds east of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 7N and 12N from 141E to 150E. Isolated thunderstorms are present near Chuuk between 5N and 9N from 151E to 153E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from near EQ159E to end near 11N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen from near Pohnpei, north of Kosrae to southwest of Kwajalein within 80 miles of a line from 7N158E to 8N167E, and south of Kosrae within 80 miles of a line from 2N161E to 5N162E.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam And Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲89 | ▼81 |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲90 | ▼79 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲89 | ▼78 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼80 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼81 |

## Around the Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | ▲64 | ▼54 |
| Beijing | Thunderstorms | ▲94 | ▼74 |
| Hong Kong | Clear | ▲89 | ▼80 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲83 | ▼72 |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | ▲74 | ▼62 |
| Los Angeles | Clear | ▲86 | ▼65 |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | ▲89 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲57 | ▼43 |
| Miami | Mostly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼68 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲85 | ▼74 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼69 |
| Pusan | Rain | ▲81 | ▼67 |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | ▲93 | ▼68 |
| Salem | Clear | ▲78 | ▼55 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼54 |
| Seoul | Rain | ▲89 | ▼69 |
| Tokyo | Cloudy | ▲77 | ▼70 |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | ▲89 | ▼68 |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

## Tides

Saipan Harbor

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3:49 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.16 Feet |
| 8:31 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.83 Feet |
| 3:50 PM | Today | Low Tide: | -0.31 Feet |
| 10:50 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.96 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:48 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Friday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Saturday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Sunday | 5:49 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Monday | 5:49 AM | 6:51 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 9:05 PM | 8:02 AM |
| Friday | 9:53 PM | 8:56 AM |
| Saturday | 10:39 PM | 9:51 AM |
| Sunday | 11:25 PM | 10:46 AM |
| Monday | - | 11:42 AM |

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# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 15, 2016

## DEPARTURES

### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2924 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA2922 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA2921 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA2920 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA2928 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA2926 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |

### SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2921 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2921 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL297 | 4:20pm | 7:00pm | Daily |

### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily |
| LJ652 | 2:10pm | 6:05pm | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:10am | 6:20am | 4, 7 |

### SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

### SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/701 | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA2924/191 | 4:15am | 8:55am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA2924/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:15am | Daily via GUM |
| PR1572 | 4:35am | 6:45am | 1, 4 |
| UA2922/183 | 8:40am | 8:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA2922/193 | 8:40am | 10:35pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA2921/183 | 1:30pm | 8:50pm | 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA2921/193 | 1:30pm | 10:35pm | 5 via Rota-GUM-ROR |
| UA2921/191 | 1:30pm | 8:55am+1 | 1, 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA2920/183 | 2:20pm | 8:50pm | 2 via GUM |
| UA2920/193 | 2:20pm | 10:35pm | 2 via GUM-ROR |
| UA2920/191 | 2:20pm | 8:55am+1 | 2, 6 via GUM |
| UA2928/191 | 6:05pm | 8:55am+1 | 1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA2926/191 | 9:50pm | 8:55am+1 | 1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM |

### SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/721 | 2:20am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA2922/159 | 8:40am | 9:55pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA2921/159 | 1:30pm | 9:55pm | 1, 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA2920/159 | 2:20pm | 9:55pm | 3, 6 via GUM |

## ARRIVALS

### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2923 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA2925 | 7:15am | 8:05am | Daily |
| UA2921 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA2920 | 12:10pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 via Rota |
| UA2927 | 4:45pm | 5:35pm | Daily |
| UA2929 | 8:30pm | 9:20pm | Daily |

### GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2920 | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2, 3, 6 |

### ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA2920 | 1:15pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 |

### NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |

### SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LJ651 | 7:30am | 1:10pm | Daily |
| 7C3402 | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ625 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

### BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:05pm | 1:55am+1 | 3, 6 |

### SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

### BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:40pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

### GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA190/2927 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA190/2929 | 9:55am | 9:20pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR1571 | 9:20pm | 3:35am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UA192/2925 | 9:45pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA192/2920 | 9:45pm | 1:50pm+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota |
| UA192/2927 | 9:45pm | 5:35pm+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA192/2929 | 9:45pm | 9:20pm+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| PR110/UA2925 | 10:05pm | 8:05am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA184/2925 | 11:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA184/2920 | 11:30pm | 1:50pm+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Rota |
| UA184/2927 | 11:30pm | 5:35pm+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA184/2929 | 11:30pm | 9:20pm+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

### HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA116/2925 | 9:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA116/2921 | 9:55pm | 1:00pm+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA116/2920 | 9:55pm | 1:50pm+1 | 1, 5 via GUM-Rota |
| UA116/2927 | 9:55pm | 5:35pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA116/2929 | 9:55pm | 9:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 6:30AM | 6:45AM | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 12:30NN | 12:45NN | Daily |
| 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |
| 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 12:00NN | 12:15NN | Daily |
| 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:45AM | 8:15AM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |

# MTEC welcomes new board member

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kanoa Resort general manager Wendi Herring, center, was elected to the Marianas Tourism Education Council Board of Directors on June 15, 2016, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office. From left, MVA Community Projects coordinator Ryan Calvo, MTEC board member Larry Lee, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Herring, MTEC board member Naomi Nishimura, MVA Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta, and MTEC board member and MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

Kanoa Resort general manager Wendi Herring has joined the Marianas Tourism Education Council Board of Directors, voted in at the organization's board meeting on June 15, 2016. Herring was a founding board member of MTEC in 2002 as a then-representative of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"I've been MTEC's biggest fan on Facebook since I got back on Saipan," said Herring.

"I'm excited to be back on the board and am looking forward to our work ahead."

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente also reported at the meeting that MTEC netted $12,000 from the Governor's Tourism Cup held last month at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

"The NMI's tourism industry can continue to grow and flourish, but only with the collaboration from our community and stakeholders. In celebration of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 40th anniversary, the government and the private sector teamed up to coordinate a successful fundraiser for the MTEC, said Benavente. "With these funds, MTEC is able to continue the education outreach to the schools, focusing on the theme, "Tourism Is Everybody's Business."

The board also voted to offer the first MTEC scholarship to two graduating high school seniors in the amounts of $1,000 and $500. Scholarship criteria are being developed and will be announced within the next several weeks.

MTEC is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the tourism industry and its importance to the community. MTEC is administered by a Board of directors, including Christopher A. Concepcion and Martin Duenas (MVA), Jonas Barcinas and Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Larry Lee (MTEC), James Nelson (Sorenson Media Broadcasting), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development, Inc.), and Shamika Ratwatte (Ernst & Young). ***(PR)***

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday greetings go out to Elvin Jeronimo LG. Agulto. When you came into this world you made everyone around you happier. We are all gratefully looking forward to another year of joy as we watch you grow with countless and abundant blessings. Lots of love, tuturam fambam!

# Pacific efforts toward Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality education

**NADI, Fiji**—Pacific education leaders from Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands have gathered in Nadi this week for the presentation and discussion of benchmarked education results.

Benchmarking provides a baseline against which the performance of education systems can be monitored, both internally to track change over time, and externally, in comparison with other systems, especially those that are performing better.

This has been the work of the Pacific Benchmarking for Education Results (PaBER) pilot project implemented by the Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) of the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Australian Government.

Importantly, PaBER has highlighted key findings and recommendations for countries to improve learning for the benefit of children in the Pacific.

The results comprise 500 findings, 270 recommendations and 47 reports across five policy domains.

"PaBER has been a unique pilot driven by the commitment and energy of the ministries of education in Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, and supported by the Australian Government at the national and regional levels," Regional Health, Education and Gender at Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade counselor Sheona McKenna said.

PaBER's main aim is to provide Pacific Islands' education ministries with a systematic and reliable means of learning from their own systems, and from systems in other countries, about the policies, processes and activities that can have a positive impact on the quality of education, and specifically on learning outcomes.

Speaking of the impacts of PaBER, Deputy Secretary for PNG Department of Education, Dr Eliakim Apelis, said the pilot has assisted PNG to review and audit all its policies to assess their relevancy and currency with educational development so that there is consistency with government policies, including the PNG Vision 2050.

The PaBER pilot phase has successfully gathered a substantial amount of baseline information and knowledge from July 2012 to March 2016, focused on education systems in PNG, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

During this period, policy and system information was benchmarked in line with the two main components that critically influence the learning outcomes in five key policy domains: Teacher Quality; Assessment Systems; Curriculum and Materials; School Governance and Management; and Education Management Information Systems.

McKenna added that PaBER has provided countries with the opportunity to benchmark their own systems and policies against a regional standard, share information, and learn about successful ideas and approaches from each other.

These key findings and recommendations were presented and discussed along with the lessons learned from the pilot project and the way forward with representatives of the national education ministries, technical working group and the development partners.

The final series of PaBER reports will be available online from July 2016. ***(PR)***


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB16-BECQ-134**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 19, 2016** **TIME: 10:30 A.M**

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL (ROTA BRANCH) FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN,** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB16-DCAA/NAP-139**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 20, 2016** **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

**"FFY2017 / 2018 REDEMPTION AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - NAP OFFICE"**

COPES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER**
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**RFP: RFP16-CCC-135**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 07, 2016** **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURES AND FIXTURES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO ceo.cnmicasino@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JULY 01, 2016.** QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOE THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB16-OVR-133**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 19, 2019** **TIME: 10:00AM**

**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) iPADS AIR FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ARLENE KAY. A YAMAGATA, M.S. CRC**
DIRECTOR OF OVR

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S


## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 07, 2016
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● www.zoning.gov.mp

**A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/09/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

**B. Public Hearings**
1. None

**C. Communications**

**D. Old Business**
2. None

**E. New Business**
1. Amendment to H.S. Lee Contruction Co., Inc.'s Conditional Use Permit #2015-2209
2. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)
3. Proposed changes to the Zoning Fees

**F. Executive (Closed) Session**

**G. Miscellaneous**
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

**H. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

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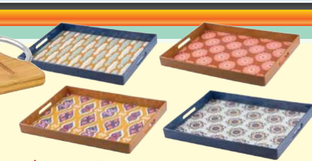

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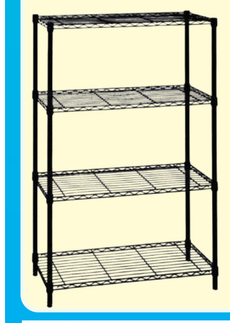

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## 40TH PACIFIC CIRCLE CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# BSI helps prepare for NMI's hosting of educational confab

Educators, researchers, and advocates from over the globe will descend on Saipan next month to attend the 40th Pacific Circle Consortium annual conference, an event hosted by the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Research Triangle Institute International.

The PCC will be held from July 4 to 7 and is expected to draw over 300 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, several Pacific Islands, the United States, Vietnam, Canada, Latvia, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Russia, Nepal, and Ecuador.

The organizing team has identified Saipan Southern High School to be the conference, exhibit, and post-conference venue. SSHS has already started preparing for the conference by partnering with Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team taking the lead in rehabilitation and restoration of several school facilities.

"As part of the logistics committee, I needed to make sure that the rooms were ready. When the Best Sunshine's CSR team came to assess the school, they wanted to know what were some of things we needed help with as far as getting the school ready for the conference. They are going to get all of the rooms ready and prepare them for the conference itself," SSHS principal Martha Kintol said.

The conference is held annually and it is a venue for education leaders and researchers, and advocates to share research, ideas, and programs.

To date, over a dozen of classroom have been restored and prepared by BSI's CSR team. The CSR team is expected to complete their work in the coming days.

"It is our pleasure to assist PSS in preparing for the upcoming Pacific Circle Consortium in which the CNMI will host this year. Different countries host this conference every year since its inception in 1977. CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz separately said.

"This is an opportunity for us to showcase the CNMI, and our work at SSHS is being completed with the help of our hardworking teacher who continue to spend time prepping their classrooms for the start of the new school year," Dela Cruz pointed out. "Similar to MHS, we have alumni from SSHS that are doing work on this project. They feel great giving back to their school."

The CSR team has offered to help Kintol and her team at the event by providing volunteers and assisting with the food set up as well as providing water for the guests.

"It wasn't just prepping the rooms, the CSR team asked if we needed assistance during the time of the conference and they are willing to help us with the mirienda for the participants," adds Kintol.

"One of the strategic goals of PSS is working with our parents and community partners. I really feel that BSI CSR team has really been a huge community partner by having us know that if we need help we can reach out. I know that they have extended a lot of their support to other schools. I truly appreciate everything that the partnership has brought to our students and school. I'm really looking forward to an even stronger working relationship with the BSI CSR team," the school leader noted. (***PR***)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School principal Martha Kintol and vice principal Merced Guerrero pose alongside members of the Best Sunshine International, Ltd. CSR team during their first day revamping the school's classrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine CSR representative David Ayuyu applying a fresh coat of paint giving the SSHS classroom a more revitalize makeover.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine CSR manager Alex Palacios scrapes off worn down paint as they restore SSHS facilities in preparation for the 40th Annual Conference of the Pacific Circle Consortium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine CSR teammates aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty for a good cause. CSR representatives Nate Ada and Maelyn Naputi scrape off old paint.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All smiles from a few of the Best Sunshine CSR staff.

# Business

## Boeing says it signs historic sales agreement with Iran Air

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Boeing Co. said Tuesday it signed an agreement with Iran Air "expressing the airline's intent" to buy its aircraft, setting up the biggest business deal between the Islamic Republic and America since the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover in Tehran—if it goes through.

Already, one Iranian official has said the deal could involve 100 aircraft while another has suggested Iranian airlines may purchase airplanes worth $25 billion from Chicago-based Boeing, welcome news to workers on its massive assembly plants around Seattle.

However, the long-standing enmity between the U.S. and Iran, as well as other sanctions and even presidential politics still could complicate any agreement—even after last year's nuclear deal. And even if the agreement is finalized, aircraft orders are often announced at list prices, meaning the actual price tag would likely be lower as airlines typically get steep discounts.

Boeing issued a statement to The Associated Press saying that it signed the Iran Air agreement "under authorizations from the U.S. government following a determination that Iran had met its obligations under the nuclear accord reached last summer."

"Boeing will continue to follow the lead of the U.S. government with regards to working with Iran's airlines, and any and all contracts with Iran's airlines will be contingent upon U.S. government approval," it said.

Boeing's statement offered no further details. Fakher Daghestani, a Dubai-based spokesman for the manufacturer, declined to elaborate.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said, "The State Department welcomes Boeing's announcement of this deal with Iran Air, which involves the type of permissible business activity envisioned in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Boeing has been in close contact with the State Department regarding this deal. We committed, as you know, to license sales of civil passenger aircraft and will continue to implement this in all of our JCPOA commitments."

## White House clears small, commercial drones for takeoff

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Routine use of small drones by real estate agents, farmers, filmmakers and countless other commercial operators was cleared for takeoff by the Obama administration Tuesday, after years of struggling to write rules that would both protect public safety and free the benefits of a new technology.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced the creation of a new category of aviation rules designed specifically for drones weighing less than 55 pounds. The long-anticipated rules mean commercial operators can fly drones without special permission.

Industry and government officials describe commercial drones as the biggest game-changing technology in aviation since the advent of the jet engine.

"This is a watershed moment in how advanced technology can improve lives," said Brendan Schulman, a vice president at DJI, the world's largest civilian drone-maker.

Jason Miller, an Obama economic adviser, said the rules are the first step toward full integration of drones in the national airspace system.

Until now, commercial operators have had to apply for a waiver from rules that govern manned aircraft, a process that can be time-consuming and expensive.

Since 2014 the FAA has granted more than 6,100 waivers and another 7,600 are waiting for approval. Many more small companies have been using drones without FAA permission, say industry officials.

Unless those operators make a serious mistake that brings them to the FAA's attention, there's not a lot the agency can do to track them down. The new rules would provide an easier way for those businesses to operate legally.

The rules also would effectively lift the lid on flights by other potential operators who have held off using the technology—ranchers who want to count cattle, research scientists, and companies that inspect infrastructure like bridges, oil platforms and smokestacks, to name a few.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### FedEx posts $70 million loss, gives cautious outlook

**DALLAS** (AP)—FedEx Corp. lost $70 million in the latest quarter because of large pension and acquisition items, and the delivery giant gave a cautious outlook for the next 12 months. The company's fiscal fourth quarter results Tuesday still beat Wall Street expectations, as FedEx and other delivery companies continue to benefit from the growth in online shopping. At times, however, the boom in e-commerce has strained the networks of FedEx and United Parcel Service Inc. To keep up, FedEx plans capital spending of $5.1 billion in the fiscal year that just started. FedEx will use the money to expand its ground network and buy more aircraft.

### Fiat Chrysler to halt use of dangerous air bag inflators

**DETROIT** (AP)—By next week, Fiat Chrysler plans to stop producing new vehicles in North America with the most dangerous type of Takata air bag inflators. The company says its factories will stop using inflators that don't have a chemical drying agent. Inflators with a drying agent have been shown in tests to be much safer. Takata inflators can explode with too much force and send shrapnel into drivers and passengers. At least 11 people have died worldwide due to the problem. Automakers are recalling up to 69 million inflators in the U.S. without the drying agent. Inflators with the drying agent also could be recalled in a few years if Takata can't prove they are safe.

### Tesla seeks to bring SolarCity into its orbit

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Electric car maker Tesla Motors is offering to buy solar panel maker SolarCity for up to $2.8 billion in an attempt to create a one-stop shop for cleaner energy as consumers become more concerned about fossil fuels hurting the environment. The all-stock deal announced Tuesday values SolarCity Corp. at $26.50 to $28.50 per share, depending on a review of the company's books. SolarCity's stock surged $3.60, or 17 percent, to $24.79 while Tesla's shares sank $25.61, or 12 percent, to $194. The deal still requires shareholder approval. That process could be complicated by Tesla CEO Elon Musk's position as SolarCity's chairman and largest individual shareholder. SolarCity's CEO, Lyndon Rive, is also Musk's cousin.

# Nation

## Trump: We don't know 'about Hillary in terms of religion'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Republican Donald Trump appeared to raise questions about likely rival Hillary Clinton's religious faith at a closed-door meeting with evangelical leaders Tuesday.

The presumptive GOP nominee, in a video clip of his remarks, appeared to suggest the public doesn't know "anything about Hillary in terms of religion."

"You know, she's been in public eye for years and years, and yet there's no, there's nothing out there. There's like nothing out there," he told the group.

"It's going to be an extension of Obama, but it's going to be worse because with Obama you had your guard up, with Hillary you don't. And it's going to be worse," he warned.

A spokeswoman for Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on exactly what Trump meant.

Footage of Trump speaking at the meeting at a Times Square hotel, which was closed to reporters, was posted by attendee Bishop E.W. Jackson on his Twitter feed.

AP

Clergy leaders with PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) Action Fund and their local federation, Faith in New York, demonstrate outside the hotel in New York's Times Square, Tuesday, June 21, 2016, where Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is scheduled to meet evangelical clergy.

Jackson told The Associated Press that Trump had been talking about the idea that conservatives are constantly scrutinized over their religion, how devout they are and their positons on social issues.

"He was saying in the context that liberals and the Democrats don't get those kinds of questions, they don't get their faith examined in that way," he said.

"He wasn't questioning her Christianity, but he was questioning the implications of her faith, compared to how conservatives tend to have their faith examined."

Clinton grew up in the Methodist church, attending church youth group and teaching Sunday school like her mother. While she doesn't often talk about her faith on the campaign trail, she occasionally quotes biblical verses and mentions her experiences in church.

"I am a person of faith. I am a Christian. I am a Methodist. I have been raised Methodist," she told voters in Iowa in January.

## No 'magic bullet' against jihadist propaganda, Lynch says

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—The Orlando massacre at a popular gay nightclub shows no one yet has "found the magic bullet" to prevent Americans from being inspired to violence by jihadist propaganda on the internet, Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Tuesday as she visited a city still shaken by the shootings.

Countering the narrative of radical extremism continues to be a challenge for the government, Lynch said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"How do we break that chain? How do we counter this extremist ideology that's online, knowing that the internet has to remain free and open?" she said. "What can we get out there that's a counter-message to that?"

At the scene of the carnage, workers removed a temporary fence that was erected around the Pulse nightclub. State officials wondered how they would pay for resources drained by the June 12 massacre, and investigators kept probing for gunman Omar Mateen's motives for the rampage, in which 49 people were killed and dozens more wounded. Mateen died in a gunbattle with police.

Lynch said investigators may never pinpoint a single motive and have not ruled out witness reports suggesting Mateen might have been at Pulse before or had gay interests.

"While we know a lot more about him in terms of who he was and what he did, I do not want to definitively rule out any particular motivation here," she said, later adding, "It's entirely possible that he had a singular motive. It's entirely possible that he had a dual motive."

In a 911 call from the club, Mateen pledged solidarity with the Islamic State group, and Lynch said there's no doubt, based on evidence gathered during the investigation, that he had read and absorbed extremist propaganda on the internet.

## Hundreds of new evacuations across West as wildfires surge

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Surging wildfires on Tuesday forced new evacuations of hundreds of homes across the West, while firefighters began beating back a pair of big adjacent blazes looming over suburban Los Angeles.

Near the U.S.-Mexico border southeast of San Diego, a two-day-old, 12-square-mile wildfire took a large leap and forced the evacuation of about 600 homes and more than 1,500 people in the community of Lake Morena Village. Previously only about 75 people had evacuated from that fire.

In the Los Angeles area, firefighters stopped the progress of two adjacent fires in the San Gabriel Mountains 20 miles northeast of downtown LA.

The blazes were 10 percent contained, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy said.

Still, no one was being allowed back to the 770 homes in the foothill city of Duarte that were under evacuation orders.

"We're looking at another night at least," Judy said. "We understand the stress it puts on families if you displace them from their homes, and we want to get them back as soon as we can."

Officials also have reduced the combined size of the fires from about 8Ω square miles to about 7Ω square miles after better mapping, Judy said.

The two fires erupted separately Monday and scared homeowners before burning mostly away from the cities.

# Asia

## Duterte asks US on sea feud with China, 'Are you with us?'

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine president-elect said Tuesday that he recently asked the U.S. ambassador whether Washington will support the Philippines in case of a possible confrontation with China in the disputed South China Sea.

Rodrigo Duterte suggested in a speech in a business forum in southern Davao city that a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between the allies does not automatically oblige Washington to immediately help if the Philippines gets into a confrontation with China over a territorial dispute.

Duterte said he asked U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg in a recent meeting, "Are you with us or are you not with us?" adding that Goldberg responded, "Only if you are attacked."

In Washington, the State Department said it would not comment on the details of diplomatic conversations or on the possibility of the U.S. coming to the defense of the Philippines in the South China Sea. But it said the U.S.-Philippine alliance is "ironclad" and the U.S. would stand by its treaty commitments.

AP

In this May 9, 2016 file photo, then front-running presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte gestures during a news conference in Davao city in southern Philippines.

"President Obama has been clear that we will stand by our commitments to the Philippines, as we do any mutual defense treaty ally," said Anna Richey-Allen, spokeswoman for the department's East Asian and Pacific affairs bureau.

"Our dependability and reliability as an ally has been established over decades. Beyond that, we won't comment on hypotheticals," she said.

The treaty says each country will "act to meet the common dangers" if one is attacked. Filipino officials have asked in the past whether the U.S. would help if the Philippines gets into a confrontation with China over disputed territories in the South China Sea.

## SKorea military: NKorea fires 2 suspected midrange missiles

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—In a remarkable show of persistence, North Korea on Wednesday fired two suspected powerful new Musudan midrange ballistic missiles, U.S. and South Korean military officials said, its fifth and sixth such attempts since April.

Five of those launches failed, many exploding in midair or crashing, and the sixth flew only about 400 kilometers (250 miles), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, an improvement but still well short of the missile's potential 3,500-kilometer (2,180-mile) range and not long enough to be classified as intermediate.

Despite the repeated failures, the North's determination in testing the Musudan worries Washington and its allies, Tokyo and Seoul, because the missile's range puts much of Asia and the Pacific, including U.S. military bases there, within reach.

Each new test—apparently linked to a command from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un—also likely provides valuable insights to the North's scientists and military officials as they push toward their goal of a nuclear and missile program that can threaten the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang earlier this year conducted a nuclear test, its fourth, and launched a long-range rocket that outsiders say was a cover for a test of banned missile technology.

A statement from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said a suspected first Musudan launch from the east coast city of Wonsan failed early Wednesday morning. It didn't elaborate. But Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile fragmented and pieces fell into waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

Later Wednesday, the JCS said the North fired another suspected Musudan, which flew about 400 kilometers. Seoul didn't immediately classify this launch as either a success or failure, but the reported distance is well short of past tests of other midrange missiles.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistan man attacked with acid by girlfriend dies of wounds

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Pakistani police say a man whose girlfriend threw acid on him for refusing to marry her has died of his wounds at a hospital. Local police official Bashir Ahmed says the 22-year-old Sadaqat Ali died at a government hospital in the city of Multan in central Punjab province on Tuesday. Ali was brought to the hospital last week after 32-year-old Monil Mai threw acid on him when he was visiting her home in the city's Mukhdoom Rashid neighborhood. She had been having an affair with Ali for several years.

#### Japan election campaign kicks off, voting age lowered to 18

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's parliamentary election campaign kicked off Wednesday in the first nationwide balloting after the voting age was lowered to 18 from 20. Up for grabs in the July 10 vote are 121 seats, or half of the seats in Parliament's less powerful upper house. The pro-business ruling party is hoping for a show of support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" program to revive the economy, while the opposition is criticizing his efforts to have Japan play a bigger global security role. Old-style loyalties have generally been critical in Japanese elections, so the addition of 2 million younger voters will be closely watched to see if there is any change to that.

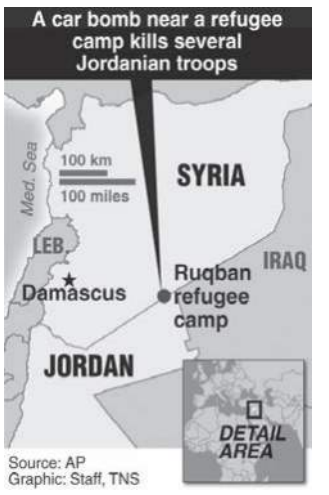
# World

## Jordan seals last entry point for Syria refugees after blast

**AMMAN, Jordan** (AP)—Jordan sealed its last entry point for Syrian refugees Tuesday after a cross-border suicide attack killed six members of the Jordanian security forces, wounded 14 and exposed the pro-Western kingdom's growing vulnerability to spillover from conflict next door.

The closure raised questions about the fate of tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who are stranded in remote desert areas along the border, many of them for months, and depend on daily deliveries of food and water from the Jordanian side.

Jordan said its security comes first. Government spokesman Mohammed Momani said Jordan had warned for months that militants, including those from the Islamic State group, are mingling with refugees in the two rapidly expanding encampments on the border and pose a serious security threat.




"The border will be closed," Momani told reporters. "We will not allow the crossing of people or vehicles through that area."

King Abdullah II said in a statement that Jordan will "respond with an iron fist" to anyone harming its borders or security, but did not lay out specifics.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault, the third against Jordanian security installations in seven months.

Tuesday's attack was launched at dawn near Ruqban, the larger of the two border camps.

The assailant drove a truck packed with explosives at high speed through an opening in the border, said Momani. "It reached our side of the border and it ended up exploding with the driver inside," he said.

The military said the blast targeted a Jordanian army post.

A Ruqban resident said he saw a pickup truck crashing through a Jordanian border gate. Seconds later, a blast went off, followed by the sound of shooting, said the resident, who spoke to The Associated Press over the phone from the area. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions from the authorities.

Cellphone photos from the camp show a cloud of gray smoke rising in the distance, with tents in the foreground.

## US-led coalition says only 1/3 of Fallujah cleared of IS

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Only a third of Fallujah has been "cleared" of Islamic State militants, the U.S.-led coalition said Tuesday, days after the Iraqi government declared victory in the city west of Baghdad, which was held by the extremists for more than two years.

Other parts of the city are "contested," said U.S. Army Col. Christopher Garver, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the coalition, with clashes underway between Iraqi forces and IS fighters. Most of the cleared terrain is in the south of the city and "clearing operations continue outward from the city center," Garver added.

Iraqi forces pushed into the center of Fallujah on Friday, retaking a government complex and the central hospital. That evening Brig. Gen. Haider al-Obedi, with Iraq's special forces, told The Associated Press his troops controlled 80 percent of the city.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Friday that Fallujah had "returned to the embrace of the nation," and that remaining IS pockets would be "cleaned out within hours."

But in recent days there have been persistent clashes between Iraqi forces and IS fighters holed up in dense residential neighborhoods along the city's northern edge.

"What it looks like is (an IS) defensive belt around the city with not as stiff defenses inside," Garver said, explaining that as Iraqi forces move out from the city center they may encounter additional pockets of stiff resistance.

"That could be their toughest fighting," Garver added.

Iraqi commanders on the ground say their forces continue to make progress and have killed hundreds of militants.

## Britain rues the rules from EU—pass the olive oil, please!

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—The tipping point might have been three years ago, when the European Union wanted to ban open bottles of olive oil—that staple of easygoing culinary fun—from restaurant tables across Europe.

British Euroskeptics, who have railed for years against what they see as the EU's excessive intrusion into daily life with a long list of petty rules, finally had an example of overreach that promised to irritate everyone who loves to dip crusty bread into oil.

A referendum Thursday will decide whether Britain remains a part of the 28-nation EU. Though the debate has centered more on immigration and the economy, the sense of sovereignty and independence is also a key theme for those in favor of leaving, who often point to attempts to regulate things like olive oil, toasters, and lawn mowers as they make their case that EU regulations can be absurd and stifling.

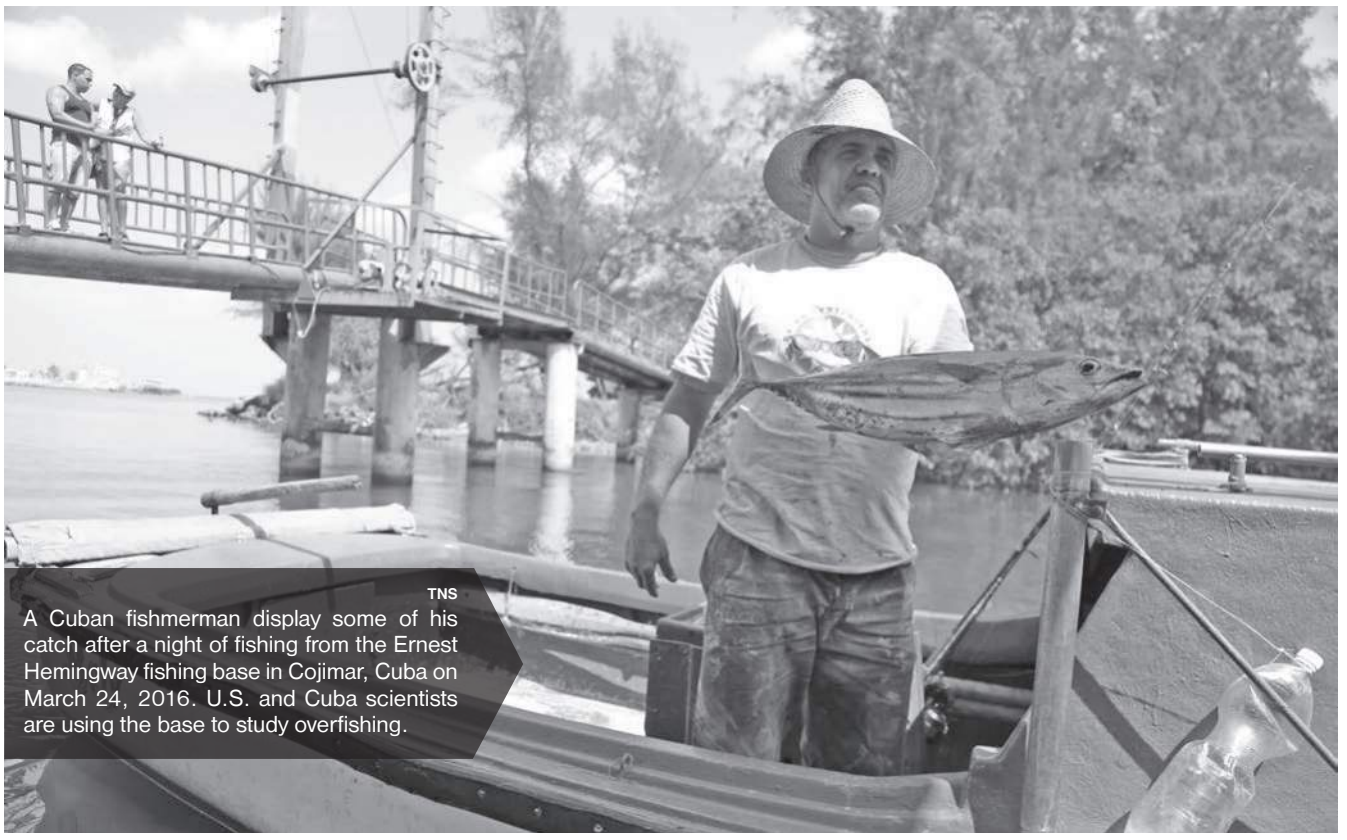
Those who defend the EU's rulemaking argue that a union of so many nations representing half a billion people in a single trading zone—the so-called single market—needs extremely detailed regulations to create a level playing field for olive producers from Spain to Greece and for chemical companies from Finland to Italy.

The 2013 olive oil plan, intended to ensure hygiene and curtail fraud, set off a barrage of complaints and never actually took effect.

"It is clear that this olive oil measure intended for consumers does not have widespread support among consumers," a contrite Dacian Ciolos, then EU farm commissioner, said at the time.

In fact, the backlash against it prompted the EU to begin rolling back some of the rules that have sparked contempt from British citizens.

# Environment



TNS
A Cuban fishmerman display some of his catch after a night of fishing from the Ernest Hemingway fishing base in Cojimar, Cuba on March 24, 2016. U.S. and Cuba scientists are using the base to study overfishing.

# Saving sharks is one issue where US and Cuba agree

By FRANCO ORDONEZ
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

**COJIMAR, Cuba**—At the fishing port once used by Ernest Hemingway, fisherman Luis Abad and five other men lugged a 12-foot tiger shark onto the dock so that Havana University scientists could measure and weigh the nocturnal hunter.

Then, after the weigh-in, the fishermen stripped the predator of its parts — fins, skin and meat — until all that was left in the afternoon sun was the shark's liver.

That Abad, 57, cut up into hundreds of pungent, inch-sized chunks and tossed into a bucket. He let the hot Cuban sun melt the cubes into oil, which he'd give to his asthmatic aunt. She had been pressing him for more of the folk remedy.

"It helps her breathe," Abad said, lifting his gaze from his work with the knife. "I take it every day. I never get sick."

Cuba is home to about one-fifth of the world's 500 shark species. Many sharks and other fish found off the shores of Florida have traveled north from Cuba, following their prey.

Cuba — or at least Cuban fishermen — figure as one of the greatest threats to some of those same species, many of which find themselves in danger because of the animal's popularity as both a staple food and a source of folk remedies like the liver oil Abad sun-brews in buckets.

That has made protecting sharks odd common ground for the United States and Cuba as the two countries warily circle one another in the search for ways to end more than a half-century of enmity.

In a rocky relationship that's still finding its way among political crackdowns and blocked business growth, protecting sharks and other marine life is a spot where the two sides have come together. Of the eight agreements reached by the United States and Cuba since relations were restored in December 2014, three involve the environment.

"The environment was the lowest hanging fruit in these bilateral discussions," says Dan Whittle, the Cuba program director at the New York-based Environmental Defense Fund, an environmental advocacy group.

In October, Cuba announced an action plan developed with the help of the Environmental Defense Fund aimed at identifying and documenting the largely undocumented shark populations. It calls for eventually imposing fishing restrictions to protect shark nurseries.

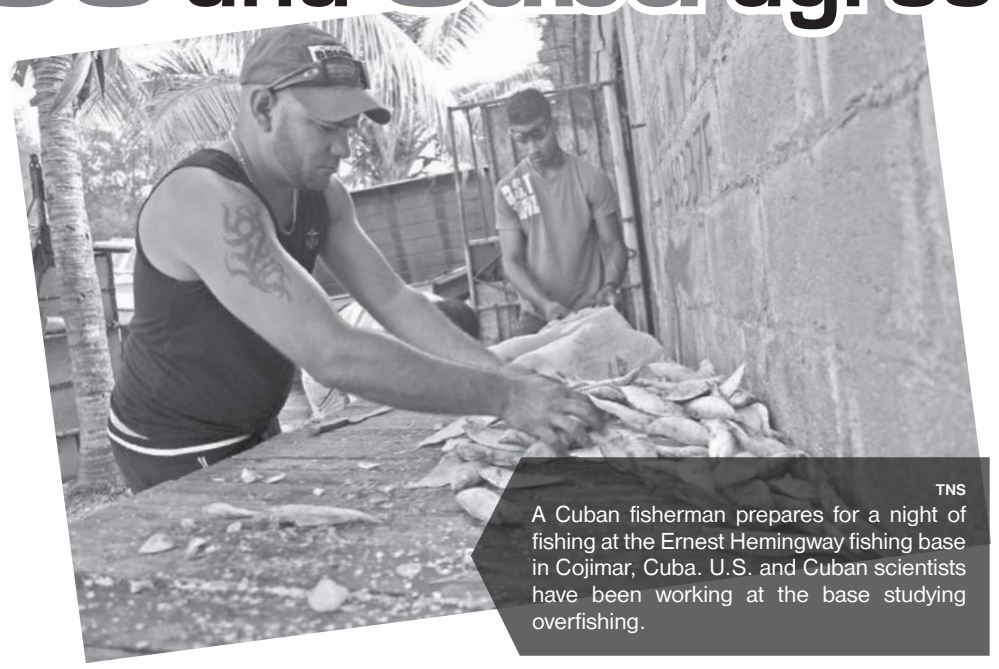
A month after the action plan, Cuba and the United States signed their first accord, which called for the protection of fish and coral reefs around the Florida Keys and Cuba's Guanahacabibes marine preserve, home to more than 200 species of fish, 40 species of corals and 1,000 species of mollusks. The second, signed a week later, was a joint statement on how the two countries would work together to fight climate change and protect against hurricanes and oil spills.

The highest predator in many marine food chains, sharks have been vanquished by overfishing across the world. Their numbers are sharply dwindling because of the high demand for shark fins. In the Gulf of Mexico, some populations have dropped by more than 90 percent.

Cuba has already banned harvesting sharks for their fins, but the restrictions contemplated in the new shark action plan, which includes limits on the number of sharks that can be caught, are likely to affect Cojimar fisherman like Abad and Geori Lopez Ybarra, for whom shark fishing is a way of life.

Their boats typically leave the Cojimar fishing pier after 8 p.m. They fish overnight using baited hooks attached to floating lights. When the bright lights — typically blue or white for sharks — disappear into the water, they know they've caught something.

"It's like Las Vegas," Lopez said. "Sometimes you win. And many times you lose."



TNS
A Cuban fisherman prepares for a night of fishing at the Ernest Hemingway fishing base in Cojimar, Cuba. U.S. and Cuban scientists have been working at the base studying overfishing.

The absence of regulations and management has put the predators at risk. U.S. and Cuban biologists cite reports that millions of sharks are caught every year with hundreds of tons then thrown back into the sea after the fins have been cut off with no records kept.

Both Lopez and Abad take great pride in using almost every part of the shark. The meat — sold fresh or salted — is eaten. The fins are exported to Asia. The liver can be turned to oil.

They understand that restrictions are needed to protect the sharks and fish they depend on, but there is also a sense of uncertainty across the fishing community on how new restrictions will affect livelihoods.

"This is what we do for a living," said Lopez. "It's not that we cut the tail and throw it away. We eat sharks. We know we must protect them, but this is what we do for a living."

Like Cuba's lush mangrove forests and pristine corral reefs, its shark habitat remains healthier because of its climate and undeveloped coastline.

The U.S. trade embargo, which the Cuban government has blamed for many of its economic challenges, has helped insulate Cuba's ecosystem from the type of tourism and development that has challenged other nations.

Cuba also was an early proponent of environmental protection, with Fidel Castro as long ago as the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro calling on world leaders to "fight the ecological destruction threatening the planet." Cuba imposed a number of restrictions to protect marine habitats.

But those measures haven't stopped poor Cubans from overfishing.

Later this month, the ambassador for oceans and fisheries at the U.S. State Department, Dave Balton, is expected to lead a group of U.S. scientists to Havana to meet with their Cuban counterparts and discuss how best to implement efforts to address climate change and protect against natural disasters and oil spills.

In July, a group of Cuban officials and scientists is expected to come to South Florida to meet with U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration scientists to study reefs around the Florida Keys and the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the northwest Gulf of Mexico.

"We want to be able to continue opening more doors and learn more about our colleagues," said Billy Causey, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries regional director, who helped broker the first accord. "Havana is 40 miles closer to my office than I am to the Miami airport. It's amazing that we know so little about one another and we're so close together."

Environmentalists such as Whittle are pressing the administration to keep the momentum going so that any inroads survive into the next presidential administration.

The pent up demand from both sides is so high that Balton says it seems that little can stop the progress.

"This is one of the easier things," Balton said. "If I had any concern at all about this it is that some of the other harder things like human rights and some of the economic issues are not fully sorted out."

The role the environment plays in the new relations is not free from controversy either.

While most scientists in both countries appear to support improved relations with the United States, some also fear the potential impact of an influx of American tourists on the island. The U.S. government just approved 155 weekly flights to nine Cuban cities, and while tourism per se is not allowed under U.S. law, the expected influx of Americans is likely to be great.

"Tourism can have a large environmental impact," said Cary Cruz, director for local sustainable development programs at the Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation of Man and Nature in Havana. "For this reason, we feel we need tourism that is responsible, different in my opinion."

Sharks are expected to be part of the attraction for new visitors drawn to the island's spectacular diving and snorkeling sites.

Tour buses already take tourists to Cojimar, the setting for Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," the 1952 novella about a Cuban fisherman who catches a giant fish and then has to battle sharks for it.

For tourists, fishermen pulling out their daily catch of sharks, rays and other fish offers another glimpse at daily Cuban life.

For Lopez, there is much symbolism involved. If there are no sharks or fish to catch, there will be no old fishermen.

"It's very important that U.S. and Cuba scientists collaborate because we're fishing in the same ocean, Lopez said. "If we kill all that we can kill here, there will be nothing left."

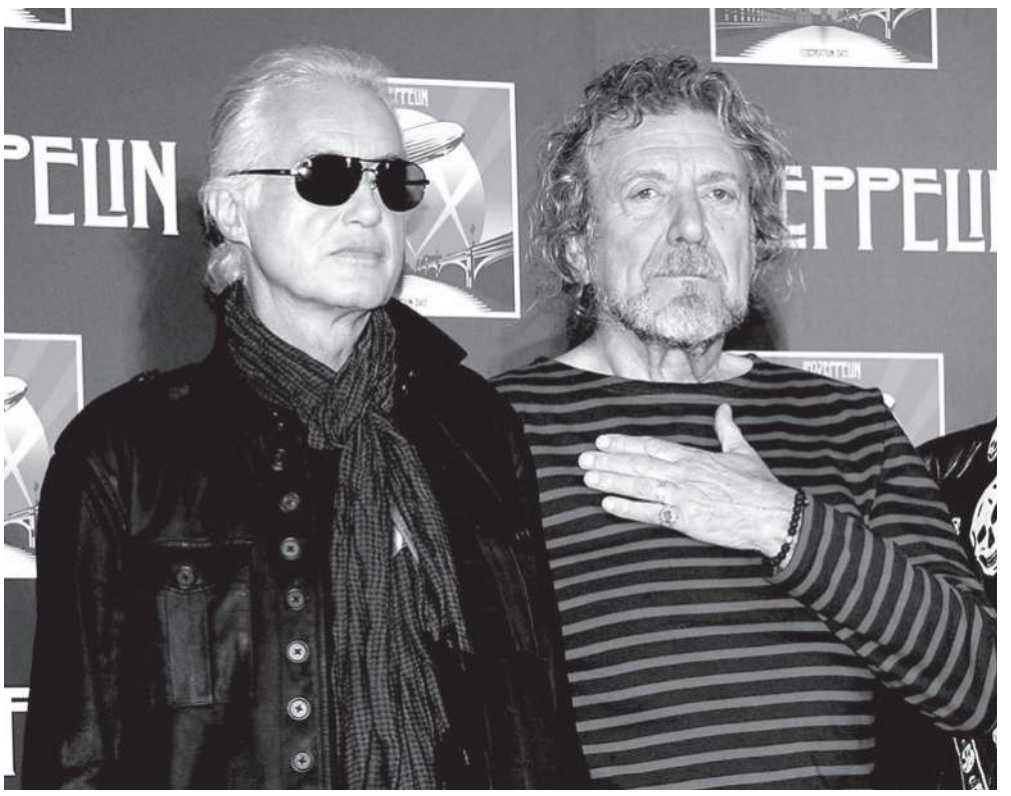
# Life & Style

## Jury gets peek at making of Led Zeppelin's epic 'Stairway'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Rock 'n' roll history played out Tuesday in a Los Angeles courtroom as vintage recordings of Led Zeppelin working on the song that became the epic "Stairway to Heaven" were played and the songwriters discussed its craft.

Jimmy Page testified about his ambitions to write a song that would accelerate to a crescendo and how he shared the introduction with keyboardist and bassist John Paul Jones to get an ally in his scheme.

Singer Robert Plant discussed matching a couplet to Page's opening on acoustic guitar as a fire crackled in the hearth at Headley Grange south of London in the spring of 1970.



AP

In this Oct. 9, 2012 file photo, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, left, and singer Robert Plant appear at a press conference ahead of the worldwide theatrical release of "Celebration Day," a concert film of their 2007 London O2 arena reunion show, in New York.

The rough cuts to one of rock's most enduring anthems included Page playing the instantly recognizable intro and breaking into a strumming pattern that would not make the final cut and Plant singing off key in his first effort to blend his lyrics to the melody.

The genesis of the song is at question in a high-stakes federal trial that accuses Page and Plant of lifting a riff from the obscure 1968 instrumental "Taurus" by the band Spirit. The estate of the late Spirit founder Randy Wolfe, also known as Randy California, is suing Page, Plant and their record label for copyright infringement.

The defense rested its case after the musicians testified. Jurors in U.S. District Court will hear closing arguments Wednesday.

Page and Plant tried to put further distance between themselves and the California band that blended a psychedelic mix of jazz and rock.

Plant, whose memory of creating "Stairway" was clear, claimed to recall very few encounters dating back to the band's early days.

Plant told a packed courtroom that he did not remember hanging out with members of the band Spirit after the American band played a Birmingham, England, show in 1970, though he said he and his wife were in a bad car wreck and he has no memory of the evening.

"I don't have a recollection of mostly anyone I've hung out with," Plant said as the courtroom roared with laughter. "In the chaos and hubbub, how are you going to remember one guy when you haven't seen him for 40 years."

Spirit's former bass player had testified to drinking beers with Plant and playing the billiards-like game snooker after a show at Mother's Club in 1970.

Plant had a much sharper memory of Headley Grange, where he said his goal was to evoke an image of pastoral Britain.

As Page played the opening, Plant said the lyrics he had been working on fit with the song: "There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold and she's buying a stairway to heaven."

From there it started "rolling pretty fast," he said.

The other band members would make contributions and Plant would occasionally retreat to a bedroom with a notepad to work on more lyrics for what became an eight-minute song.

Musical experts for the Wolfe estate have said there were many similarities between "Taurus" and "Stairway," but defense experts played many other songs that they said had a common descending chord sequence used in songs for three centuries.

If the jury finds that the "Taurus" copyright was violated, jurors would have a wide range of damages to consider.

An expert for estate trustee Michael Skidmore, said Led Zeppelin work that included "Stairway" earned gross revenues of nearly $60 million in the past five years. Some of that work, however, included other songs and could be part of a 2008 deal that's outside the statute of limitations.

Defense experts offered much smaller figures focused solely on revenues from the song in its many forms—as a digital download, ringtones, streaming and as a fraction of multiple albums.

A British accountant testified Tuesday that the gross revenues Page and Plant received from "Stairway" during that time period amounted to just over $1 million.

An executive for Led Zeppelin's label, Rhino Entertainment Co., said the song earned $3 million in revenue and a net profit of $868,000 since 2011.

## NBA Finals a boon to ABC, not just Cleveland

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It's not just the city of Cleveland that's happy with LeBron James and his comeback Cavaliers.

The seven-game series with the Golden State Warriors was the most-watched NBA Finals since 1998, the year Michael Jordan won the last of his six titles, the Nielsen company said Tuesday. Game 7 on Sunday, seen by 31 million viewers, was the most popular individual Finals game since Jordan's clincher—with 10 million more people watching than during any other playoff game this year.

It was a winner-take-all game for the NBA championship involving the league's two best players, and it went down to the last minute.

"I'm sure (ABC) wishes they were able to foresee that and price their ads accordingly," said Jon Swallen, chief research officer for Kantar Media.

The series as a whole averaged 20.2 million viewers, Nielsen said. No NBA Finals that didn't involve Jordan has scored as high since 1989. The last time Cleveland was in the Finals, in 2007, the series averaged 9.3 million viewers.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the second half of Game 7 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, June 19, 2016.

Kantar Media estimates that ABC earned $295 million in advertising revenue from the seven-game series, or about $120 million more than if it had been a four-game sweep. While ABC still would have earned advertising revenue for entertainment programming if there weren't extra games, it wouldn't have been that much more, Swallen said.

ABC sets ad rates before the playoffs begin, with prices escalating if the Finals go to six or seven games. But since the network couldn't have predicted a finale that was the year's most popular program after the Super Bowl and the Oscars, Sunday's advertisers got a relative bargain, he said.

That includes ABC: an estimated 15 percent of Sunday's ads were touting upcoming ABC shows, and exposure before 31 million people can significantly boost awareness of the network's upcoming shows, he said.

The NBA series also boosted ABC's Jimmy Kimmel, who records a show to air before each night's game in the East, and after the game out West. Thursday's episode, with Oprah Winfrey, drew an all-time best 4.8 million viewers for a Kimmel show.

For the week, the games helped ABC to an average of 10.5 million viewers in prime time. CBS and NBC were tied for second with 4.57 million viewers, Fox had 3.1 million, Univision had 2.6 million, Telemundo had 1.4 million, ION Television had 1.3 million and the CW had 900,000.

Fox News Channel was the week's most popular cable network, averaging 2.04 million viewers in prime time. HGTV had 1.56 million, TBS had 1.42 million, USA had 1.31 million and Disney had 1.3 million.

NBC's "Nightly News" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 7.9 million viewers. ABC's "World News" was second with 7.8 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 6.5 million viewers.

For the week of June 13-19, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: NBA Finals Game 7: Cleveland at Golden State, ABC, 31.02 million viewers; "NBA Trophy Presentation," ABC, 27.77 million; NBA Finals, Game 6: Golden State at Cleveland, ABC, 20.7 million; NBA Finals, Game 5, Cleveland at Golden State, ABC, 20.54 million; "America's Got Talent" (Tuesday), NBC, 11.54 million; "Game of Thrones," HBO, 7.66 million; "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 6.91 million; "NCIS," CBS, 6.88 million; "American Ninja Warrior," NBC; 6.84 million; "NCIS: New Orleans," CBS, 6.726 million.

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by Nielsen for June 13-19. Listings include the week's ranking and viewership.

1. NBA Finals Game 7: Cleveland at Golden State, ABC, 31.02 million viewers.
2. "NBA Trophy Presentation," ABC, 27.77 million.
3. NBA Finals, Game 6: Golden State at Cleveland, ABC, 20.7 million.
4. NBA Finals, Game 5, Cleveland at Golden State, ABC, 20.54 million.
5. "America's Got Talent" (Tuesday), NBC, 11.54 million.
6. "Game of Thrones," HBO, 7.66 million.
7. "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 6.91 million.
8. "NCIS," CBS, 6.88 million.
9. "American Ninja Warrior," NBC, 6.84 million.
10. "NCIS: New Orleans," CBS, 6.726 million.
11. "60 Minutes," CBS, 6.725 million.
12. "NBA Countdown: Game 6," ABC, 6.39 million.
13. "Person of Interest," CBS, 6.27 million.
14. "NBA Countdown: Game 7," ABC, 6.1 million.
15. "Blue Bloods," CBS, 5.89 million.
16. "NBA Countdown: Game 5," ABC, 5.65 million.
17. Copa America Soccer: Mexico vs. Chile, Univision, 5.41 million.
18. "To Tell the Truth" (Tuesday, 10 p.m.), ABC, 5.22 million.
19. "To Tell the Truth" (Tuesday, 8 p.m., ABC, 5.21 million.
20. "Hawaii Five-0," CBS, 5.19 million.

*(AP)*

# Kanye West, Weeknd to play Meadows festival in NYC in Oct.

AP

In this April 7, 2016, file photo, The Weeknd performs during the 2016 Echo Music Award ceremony in Berlin.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kanye West and The Weeknd will headline the first edition of The Meadows Music and Arts Festival in October in New York City.

Founders Entertainment announced Tuesday that Chance the Rapper, Kygo, Damian Marley, The 1975 and Bryson Tiller will also perform Oct. 1-2 at Citi Field in the borough of Queens.

Founders Entertainment also produces the Governors Ball music festival, which took place earlier this month in New York. The festival's third day, which was to feature West, was canceled due to bad weather.

Governors Ball ticket buyers can purchase tickets for the Meadows festival starting Wednesday. Tickets for the general public go on sale Thursday.

Other performers will include Grimes, Cage the Elephant, Empire of the Sun, Chromeo, Savages and Metric.

# 'Game of Thrones' to get fan convention

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Fans of HBO's "Game of Thrones" will have the chance to immerse themselves in their favorite show next summer.

The show's fan site Watchers on the Wall said Tuesday it will host a three-day convention in Nashville, Tennessee, from June 30 to July 2, 2017. The agenda will include panels, performances, workshops, speeches and a chance to get autographs from and photos with people connected to the show.

Zack Luye, co-director of the fan site, said no detail will go unnoticed. The book series from George R.R. Martin began in 1996 and the TV adaptation is HBO's most popular program.

Organizers haven't announced who from the show will participate.

AP

In this image released by HBO, Kit Harington portrays Jon Snow in a scene from "Game of Thrones."

# Singer Judith Hill recalls Prince plane emergency landing

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Singer and Prince protege Judith Hill says she was on a plane with Prince when it made an emergency landing in Illinois after the superstar lost consciousness less than a week before his death.

Hill told The New York Times (http://nyti.ms/28NJCRf ) for a story posted online Tuesday that she was "very freaked out" when Prince lost consciousness in the middle of a conversation. She said his eyes fixed before he nodded off.

"Thankfully, I happened to be looking into his face," she said, adding that she might have thought he had simply fallen asleep if she hadn't been looking at him.

Hill told the newspaper that she shook Prince and called his name while the plane descended to Moline, Illinois.

"We knew it was only a matter of time; we had to get down," Hill said. "We didn't have anything on the plane to help him."

She said he was awake and talking by the time they arrived at a hospital. She said it was the first time she'd ever seen him in distress.

Prince "was quick on his feet," she said. "Never said anything, that this is hurting, never a sign of struggle. That's why it's all very shocking."

# Rolling Stones bringing 'Exhibitionism' to NYC

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Rolling Stones are bringing an exhibit of more than 500 recording and artifacts from the band's archive to New York City in November.

"Exhibitionism" was launched in London in April. November will mark the exhibit's North American debut at the Industria Superstudio in the West Village, it was announced Tuesday.

Tickets go on sale in September.

Mick Jagger said in a statement the exhibit is "not going to be like walking into a museum. It's going to be an event, an experience."

"Exhibitionism" will take in music, art, design, film, video, fashion and performance. Artifacts will include guitars, costumes, personal diaries and audio clips.

The show closes Sept. 4 at London's Saatchi Gallery. An end-date for the New York run has not been announced.

# Fox TV anchor Neil Cavuto recovering from open heart surgery

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** (AP)—Neil Cavuto, an anchor for Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, is recovering from open heart surgery.

In a statement, Fox News said that Cavuto had the operation Monday at a New York City hospital and came through with "flying colors."

The journalist was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997.

Cavuto has been off the air since May 31. Fox said Tuesday that he's scheduled to return to hosting his trio of shows on the news and business channels later this year.

AP

In this Tuesday, March 19, 2013 photo, Neil Cavuto, of the Fox Business Network, appears during a segment his program in New York. Cavuto, an anchor for Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, is recovering from open heart surgery.

# Patient is not proud to have weight announced out loud

## DEAR ABBY

### By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

DEAR ABBY: I have fought obesity all of my adult life, and my weight has yo-yoed over the years. My problem is, when I go to the doctor's office and I am taken to the exam area, the scale is right out in the open where other patients come and go as well as all the office personnel.

Mind you, I don't care if I am weighed in the presence of people walking around -- if they don't peek. However, when the medical assistant is done weighing me, she reads the scale out loud. I have felt humiliated when other patients are walking past. I have put up with this for years.

Recently, this medical assistant weighed me and I just knew she was going to "announce" my weight. This time there was a man I could tell was a patient, standing nearby at the reception window staring intently at me getting weighed. Because I was sure the M.A. was going to say it out loud, I started to cough to try to muffle the sound of her voice. It worked, but then she acted irritated because of my coughing, so she repeated it loudly. I was very embarrassed, to say the least. When the doctor saw me, I was afraid to say anything as I didn't want to get anybody in trouble.

I graduated from a medical assistant school many years ago and I remember the registered nurse who was our instructor taught us to never say out loud somebody's weight when you weigh him or her. It only makes common sense. I no longer want to go back to that doctor's office.

Do you have any advice for me when this happens again? I say again because it happens at other doctor's offices I visit as well. I am at a loss here. I would appreciate your input.

STILL STINGING IN NEVADA

**DEAR STILL STINGING: The first time it happened, you should have quietly mentioned to the medical assistant that she embarrassed you, and asked her please not to do it again. When it happened a second time, you should have spoken to the doctor about it. You are far from the only person who is sensitive about weight. If I were that physician, I'd certainly want to know why patients were disappearing from my practice. Wouldn't you?**

**DEAR ABBY:** I do a lot of home canning, and last year our farm was very profitable. I canned more than 300 jars of jellies, juices, apple sauce and soups. I gave many of these away as gifts.

My dilemma is, most of the time no one gives me the jars back. Canning jars are the most expensive part of canning. Would you please help me get the word out to return the jars when they are empty?

DEBBIE IN DERBY, N.Y.

**DEAR DEBBIE: I'm glad to put out the word. But don't you think it would be more effective if you simply asked that the jars be returned if the recipients want to continue receiving these generous gifts from you? Attaching a "Please return to (blank)" label might help.**

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

EVERYBODY I KNOW HAS EITHER CABLE TV OR A VCR! THEY CAN WATCH ANYTHING THEY WANT!
BUT ME? I HAVE TO WATCH DUMB OL' SUMMER REPEATS! I HAVE TO WATCH THE SAME GARBAGE OVER AND OVER!
HOW CRUELLY WE MISTREAT YOU, CALVIN.
...SO THEN HE GAVE ME 'OLIVER TWIST" TO READ, AND SAID I MIGHT IDENTIFY WITH IT.
RATS...AND "SORORITY ROW HORROR" IS ON CABLE TONIGHT.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KATY, YOUR DAD WON'T SHOW ME HIS PLANS FOR THE DECK HE'S BUILDING.
I NEED YOU TO INFILTRATE HIS OFFICE AND BRING ME THE PLANS WITHOUT HIM SEEING YOU.
THINK YOU CAN DO IT?
YEAH. BUT I'LL NEED SOME SPY SUNGLASSES AND AN ALIAS.
THAT SEEMS UNNECESSARY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL JUST DRESS UP AS A FILING CABINET.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

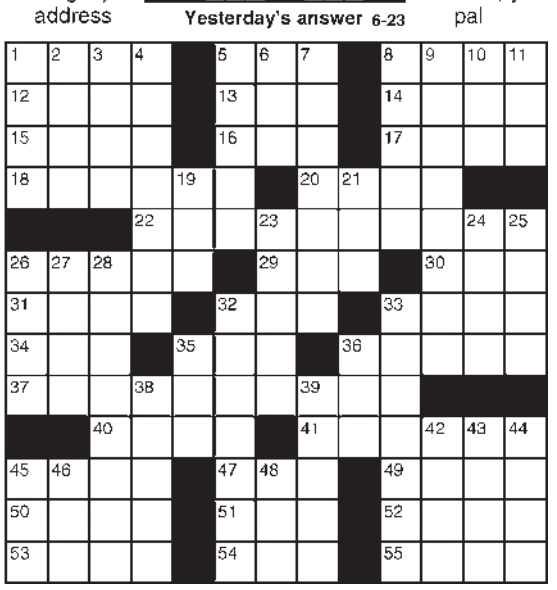
*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Polite query
5 Spasm
8 No neatnik
12 Power co. supply
13 High card
14 Olympian queen
15 Wife of Jacob
16 Occupation, for short
17 Greek vowel
18 Go off track?
20 Seniors' org.
22 Intellectual exodus
26 Trademark symbols
29 "CSI" evidence
30 — Victor
31 Sleeping
32 "A pox upon thee!"
33 River to the Baltic
34 Knightly address
35 Old Oldsmobile
36 Having a damp smell
37 Cardiologist-approved, as foods
40 Tree home
41 Soft and lustrous
45 Mayberry moppet
47 Annoy
49 Ethereal
50 Manhandle
51 Victory sign
52 — gin fizz
53 Workout venues
54 Finale
55 Horn sound

**DOWN**
1 Blend
2 Sheltered
3 Calendar span
4 Crane of Sleepy Hollow
5 Hand drums of India
6 Here (Fr.)
7 "Le Vase Bleu" painter
8 Bake eggs
9 Spotted cats
10 Scrap
11 Sheep's cry
19 Apr. check casher
21 Oklahoma city
23 Figure of speech
24 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
25 Not even one
26 Whip
27 Theater award
28 Bright flower
32 Celebratory, as a mood
33 Survive
35 ACLU issues (Abbr.)
36 Hosp. scan
38 Film spools
39 Queried
42 Prefix, with byte
43 Slangy suffix
44 Russian denial
45 Texter's "Wow!"
46 Salary
48 Stimpy's pal

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 6-23



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Melissa Rauch, 36; Jason Mraz, 39; Frances McDormand, 59; Randy Jackson, 60.

**Happy Birthday**: Take care of unfinished business and figure out what you want to accomplish as the year progresses. Stay strong when faced with opposition. Believe in what you know you are capable of doing and don't let anyone who doubts you stand in your way. Love and romance are in the stars and will improve your personal life. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 23, 28, 34, 41.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Take on a physical challenge that will boost your confidence and enthusiasm. Interacting with people with a different point of view than you will help you assess your next move and figure out what you need to be successful. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will flare up if you aren't willing to listen. Decide what's important to you and head in that direction. Getting rid of items you no longer use will be liberating and allow you to make physical changes to enhance your appearance. ✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Show greater consistency in what you do and say, and you will find it easier to make an important decision. Keep a steady pace. Your common sense and network of supporters will help lead to victory. ✪✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Show some stability. Stick to your plans and follow through if you make a promise to someone. Show enthusiasm when helping relatives and you will help them be less dependent on you. Don't overspend or give in to emotional ultimatums. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make a change, but get the approval of those affected by your decisions before you begin. You'll feel less stress knowing you have been fair and taken others' concerns into consideration. Offering an incentive will help you gain support. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A productive start to your day will pay off. Ambitious projects coupled with a healthy diet and regular exercise will add to your success as well as your health. A suggestion will change the way you think. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make a point to learn something new or to discuss a concern you have with the way someone is treating you. A playful approach to love will help smooth things over. Don't wait for others to come to you—make the first move. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make personal improvements. Call on people who are qualified to help you make a decision that will help you address a health concern. Don't be too proud to ask for guidance. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get your facts straight before you make an assumption. Acting on hearsay will make you look bad. Rely on past experiences to guide you in making the right choice. Don't share your personal or financial affairs with anyone. ✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for a good way to make your money work for you. Invest in the way you look or the skills you have. Offering your very best will impress others and put you in a good position to move ahead. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anger take over. Use your energy wisely and make progress with matters concerning the domestic changes you want to make. Consider the moves you have made in the past and whether a similar change is in your best interests now. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Being with family, friends or those who motivate you will lead to permanent changes. A new look or place to live will give you the inspiration you need to follow through with your plans and reach your goals. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are caring, innovative and curious. You are a proactive participant.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 6 | | | | 5 | 2 | |
| | | 9 | 2 | | 3 | 8 | | |
| | 4 | | | 7 | | | 9 | |
| | | | 9 | 1 | 8 | | | |
| | 9 | | | 6 | | | 5 | |
| | | 3 | | | | 2 | | |
| | | | 4 | | 6 | | | |
| | 5 | 2 | | | | 7 | 4 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/23

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**KYLIE COSMETICS** Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | Y | A | W | A | E | V | I | G | D | O | L | C | E | K |
| S | N | V | I | P | N | O | I | T | C | E | L | L | O | C |
| O | L | I | Q | U | I | D | P | O | S | I | E | K | N | I |
| L | O | T | M | R | E | N | I | L | H | S | L | N | L | P |
| G | O | N | A | A | N | G | I | E | R | S | L | W | I | U |
| L | C | E | L | T | T | C | B | O | L | D | U | O | N | E |
| I | I | C | G | S | N | I | L | E | S | N | F | R | E | K |
| T | L | S | Ⓐ | E | T | O | V | L | L | E | S | B | B | A |
| E | L | E | Ⓟ | B | C | I | M | O | J | R | I | E | H | M |
| R | A | D | Ⓟ | R | S | A | K | E | E | T | L | U | A | A |
| A | T | N | E | U | S | I | N | T | T | L | K | R | K | T |
| L | E | A | L | W | N | N | U | D | D | A | Y | T | O | T |
| L | M | C | E | G | E | C | O | U | Y | J | L | I | K | E |
| Y | X | N | K | R | O | T | L | O | O | K | S | S | O | S |
| E | L | I | P | S | T | I | C | K | T | R | U | O | K | T |

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App, Best, Bold, Brush, Candy K, Collection, Colors, Cool, Creamy, Dolce K, Exclusive, Full, Giveaways, Glam, Gloss, Heir, Incandescent, Jenner, King K, Kits, Koko K, Kourt K, Like, Liner, Lipstick, Liquid, Literally, Looks, Makeup, Mary Jo K, Matte, Metallic, Metals, News, Online, Pencil, Pick, Posie K, Reign, Sell, Silky, So Cute, Test, Trend, True Brown K, VIP, Vitamins

**Yesterday's Answer: Al Bundy**

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## EMPLOYMENT

2 Accountant/Bokkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

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1-Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - $6.05 w/ 6 yrs exp & knowledge in Acctng & Taxes. Japanese Foods import/export docs related. Mail resume to SPE Saipan Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

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Beauty Care Instructor. $6.00-$7.00/hr. w/2yrs. teaching exp. Send resume to paolo.tabuada@yahoo.com.

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1 Taekwondo Instructor, $10.25/hr. Mail resume to Blue Dragon Martial Arts Corporation at P.O. Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950.

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CMI General Construction**

1 Comptroller/Accountant

***Email resume to cmi.gencon@gmail.com***

**PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING AGENCY**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**(2) General Maintenance**
**(3) Commercial Cleaner**

Must have 5 years experience.
Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail:hectorsablan@yahoo.com

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Accountant

- **Qualifications:** Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience required. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree Accounting software and be able to work flexible hours with valid Driver License. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience starting at $6.05.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Pacific Development, Inc. in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Garapan no later than June 27, 2016

## EMPLOYMENT

1 Maintenance and Repair Worker, minimum wage. Mail resume to Elliot System, LLC. at P.O. Box 5568 Saipan, MP 96950

---

4 Landscaper and Grounds Keeping Worker, (2) Waiters and Waitress, minimum wage. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

**Blue Lagoon Realty Inc.**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

- **2 Gen. Maintenance & Repair Workers**
- **2 Carpenters**
- **1 Accountant**
- **1 Plumber**
- **2 Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners**

Please email resume to:
info@mangoresort.com
Contact Elly at (670) 288-6904
for more information

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cheer Dragon Leasing Corporation has open vacancy for skydiving operation on following positions:

**General Manager / Chief Instructor:**
An Applicant must have skydiving experience of no less as 8000 tandem jumps, plus:

- 5 years experience in running skydiving operation;
- familiar with tandem operations;
- experience in skydiving operation marketing;
- to hold the USPA D-License or higher or its foreign equivalent;
- to hold the USPA Tandem Instructor rating, its foreign equivalent or the Manufacturer Type Endorsement;
- to hold US FAA III Class Medical;
- experience in aerial photography;
- skills in foreign language is plus.

Inquiries and CV forward via e-mail to
skydivemarianas@rocketmail.com

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**SAMCORP IMPORTS**

**Sales associates:** Looking for a sales person, for both on and off premises sales. Must have a valid driver license, and be able to drive both manual and automatic. Background on distribution sales and marketing is a plus. Knowledge in wine, liquor and tobacco is a plus. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

---

All jobs pay will be matched with experience,
local and US citizen preferred. Please submit your resume
to samcorpimports@yahoo.com.

**Kanoa Resort**
Saipan

**(1) BARTENDER**
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. At least 1 year experience or vocational training in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Customer service or sales experience. Must be 21 or older.

---

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than June 27, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

## JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**1 – DIESEL TANK TRUCK DRIVER**
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time

- Knowledge to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle that transporting hazardous material (petroleum diesel).
- Knowledge to load/unload petroleum diesel at filling rack
- Knowledge to read tank truck gauges or meters
- Must know to transport hazardous materials (petroleum diesel) and must know how to respond in case of spillage and emergency.
- Safety training is required to Hazardous material transportation
- Familiarization in hazard class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Masterials/Dangerous Goods)
- Must be a certified Hazmat Tank truck driver
- Must have not less than 5 years experience as a Hazmat Tank Truck Driver
- Commercial Driver's Health Certificate is required.
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

**1 – BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT**
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time

- Bachelors degree in Accounting with 5 years work related experience in financial transactions.
- Familiar with Petroleum business activities
- Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsibility, and able to manage deadlines
- Knowledge in Peachtree software, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word operations

Mail complete application or resume to:
D & W Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950.
Deadline: June 23, 2016

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**MECHANICAL ENGINEER (1)**

- 4-5 years experience in Real Estate
- Should be Engineering graduate

Please send resume to:
Equitable Realty & Consulting Services
Fax. No.: 234-5104

Job Vacancy Announcement

**ACCOUNTANT (1)**

- 6-8 years of experience in the preparation & analysis of Financial Statements
- Should be BSBA-Accounting graduate
- 6-8 years experience in Financing & Insurance

Please send resume to
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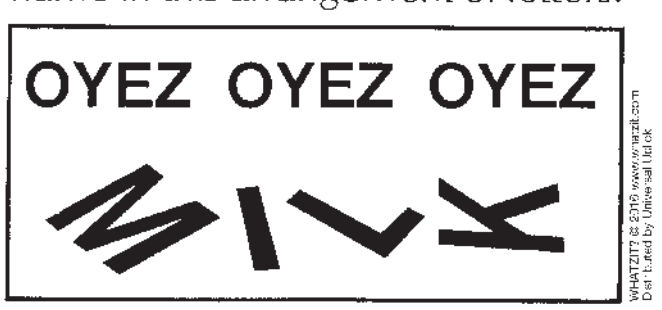


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# Messi leads Argentina over US, into Copa final

AP
Argentina's Lionel Messi (10) chases the ball over United States' John Brooks (6) during a Copa America Centenario soccer semifinal, Tuesday, June 21, 2016, in Houston. Argentina won, 4-0.

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Lionel Messi pretty much ended the United States' Copa America hopes in less than three minutes.

Argentina's diminutive dribbling and scoring machine showed the skills, speed and brilliance that made him a five-time world player of the year, exposing the huge gap between the U.S. and soccer's elite.

Messi set up Ezequiel Lavezzi's opening goal 175 seconds in, scored on a free kick to break Argentina's career scoring record and assisted on the second of Gonzalo Higuain's two goals in a 4-0 rout Tuesday night that put La Albiceleste into the Copa America final.

"We got outplayed badly by a very good team," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said. "Today is a good day to judge where we are in program overall. We're obviously a long way off."

Messi flicked the ball over the defense to an open Lavezzi for the opener, then doubled the lead in the 32nd minute with his 55th international goal, his tournament-leading fifth. Higuain added goals in the 50th and 86th minutes, the latter off Messi's pass.

Argentina had 67 percent possession and outshot the U.S. 10-0—nine of them on goal.

"Once we were 1-nil down, we had far too much respect," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "After that early goal, I think just that our players could feel that they are just probably in every position on the field just better than we are."

U.S. players seemed shocked after their largest margin of defeat in a competitive match since a 5-0 loss to Mexico in the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup final. While saying he respected Klinsmann's opinion, U.S. captain Michael Bradley also said: "Please don't make it out to be anything like that."

Argentina seeks its first major title since the 1993 Copa —and its first since Messi's debut in 2005—on Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey, against the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between Chile and Colombia.

"We deserve it, for all the good work we've been doing all these years," Messi said.

Argentina will be missing Lavezzi, who broke his left elbow when he fell backward over an advertising signboard in the 63rd minute while trying to chest a pass.

Hosting a special, expanded 16-nation edition of South America's championship to celebrate Copa America's 100th anniversary, the U.S. won a difficult group that included third-ranked Colombia and then beat No. 13 Ecuador in the quarterfinals. But top-ranked Argentina and Messi, who turns 29 Friday and is at the top of his game, stunned the No. 31 U.S. and the sell-out crowd of 70,858 at NRG Stadium.

"It's some of his angles and his spurts and just going from a walk to an absolute sprint," U.S. midfielder Kyle Beckerman said. "You try to do what you can to stop him, but once he gets going, it's hard."

The U.S. closes its tournament Saturday in the third-place match at Glendale, Arizona.

Messi will try to fill a major gap in his resume. He has helped Barcelona win eight titles in Spain's La Liga and four in the Champions League, but his Argentina trophies have been limited to the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship for players under 20 and the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, mostly for players under 23. La Albiceleste lost to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final in Brazil and to host Chile on penalty kicks in last year's Copa America final.

"I think that since losing the final in Brazil, these players set out to have a new possibility," Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said.

Klinsmann inserted Beckerman and midfielder Graham Zusi into his lineup along with forward Chris Wondolowski because of suspensions assessed to midfielders Jermaine Jones and Alejandro Bedoya, and forward Bobby Wood.

Argentina went ahead when Lavezzi played a short corner kick to Ever Banega, who passed back to Lavezzi sprinting from the corner diagonally. Lavezzi beat Fabian Johnson to the ball and poked it to an unmarked Messi about 25 yards out, in the center of the field. As the U.S. defense started to come out, Messi one-timed a flick with his left foot over the back line to Lavezzi, who headed the ball from 7 yards over goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

Klinsmann tried to steady his players.

"You were trying to scream into the field, saying, 'Go at them. Go. Become physical. Just step on their toes,'" he recalled.

Messi doubled the lead after he was fouled by Wondolowski. Klinsmann yelled at Paraguayan referee Eduardo Cardozo as Messi placed the ball about 26 yards out, closer than the spot of the foul.

"If it's 5 yards back, he's not shooting the same ball," Klinsmann said. "We're just too nice then in those moments."

Messi bent a beautiful curving drive that went just over Guzan's outstretched left palm and into the upper corner. It moved him one ahead of Gabriel Batistuta's career total, according to the Argentine Football Association; FIFA records Batistuta's total as 56, including two goals in an exhibition against Slovakia in June 1995.

"I'm really happy to have overcome the Bati," Messi said.

Higuain made it 3-0 when he burst past John Brooks for Lavezzi's pass, one-timed a shot that Guzan stopped and poked in the rebound. Higuain got the final goal after second-half sub Steve Birnbaum gave the ball away to Messi about 35 yards out.

"We let them in into a flow, and we weren't physical enough," U.S. defender Geoff Cameron said. "I think we respected them a little too much."

# Croatia ends Spain's 12-year unbeaten run

**BORDEAUX, France** (AP)—Spain's 12-year unbeaten run at the European Championship ended when Croatia rallied for a stunning 2-1 win on Tuesday, sending the two-time champions into an intense, high-profile knockout match against Italy in the round of 16.

Ivan Perisic's 87th-minute winner for Croatia not only ended Spain's unbeaten run at the tournament that stretched back to 2004, it also relegated the defending champions into second place in Group D.

A draw would have been enough for Spain to secure first place in the group and a potentially easier second-round game.

Spain will face the Italians at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis on Monday -- a repeat of the 2012 final that Spain won 4-0. Croatia will play one of the third-place teams in the northern French city of Lens on Saturday.

"It's not the best path for us, but you never know where the danger will be," Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque said. "We wanted to advance in first place but we are prepared to overcome this."

It had all started so well for Spain, when striker Alvaro Morata put his side ahead in the seventh minute, redirecting the ball into the net after a shot by midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

Nikola Kalinic equalized just before halftime when he steered a Perisic cross into the Spain net with a nice back-heel flick.

Spain had a chance to retake the lead, but defender Sergio Ramos saw his penalty saved by Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subasic in the 72nd minute.

It proved to be a costly miss when Perisic finished off a fast counter attack with a low left-foot shot that beat Spain goalkeeper David De Gea at his near post.

Both teams had entered the match at the Stade the Bordeaux guaranteed a spot in the knockout stage. However, both teams wanted to win especially as the runner-up in the group will meet Italy. That was evident in the starting lineup that Del Bosque picked—the same 11 that won its first two games.

"We have to get over this," Del Bosque said. "Now we have to prepare well."

The result ended Spain's 14-game unbeaten streak at the European Championship over two tournaments. It also ended the team's run of seven straight games without conceding a goal. The last time it had conceded was in a 1-1 draw against Italy in its first group match in the 2012 tournament—734 minutes ago.

"It's better to lose now than on Monday (against Italy)," Spain striker Manuel "Nolito" Agudo said. "It will be harder now, but you have to beat everybody to be the champion. We still depend on ourselves. We will be ready to play Italy."

Italy has been somewhat of a surprise package at Euro 2016. The team arrived in France with few predicting it would go far but it qualified top of its group with a game to spare, after winning both of its matches without conceding a goal.

"Italy is playing well of late," Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta said. "They also like to keep the ball as part of their defensive tactics."

Croatia's surprise victory came despite playing without star midfielder Luka Modric and forward Mario Mandzukic, both out with muscle injuries.

"The team spirit helped us and we were fighting until the last minute," Perisic said through a translator. "I think we can go far now. If we play like this we can go to the very end."

Croatia hadn't beaten Spain since a 2-0 result in friendly in Valencia in 1994. The teams had also met in the final group game at Euro 2012, when Spain won 1-0.

# Sale first to 12 wins, White Sox beat Red Sox

AP
Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park, Tuesday, June 21, 2016, in Boston.

**BOSTON** (AP)—Tim Anderson gave Chicago White Sox ace Chris Sale the earliest lead possible, and Sale used it to become the majors' first 12-game winner.

Sale tied his season high with nine strikeouts, Anderson led off the game with his first career homer and the White Sox beat the Boston Red Sox 3-1 on Tuesday night.

"I felt really good out there. I had good command and just confidence, too," Sale said.

That confidence was evident as Sale (12-2) held Boston to four hits over seven innings. He got to a dozen wins before the season's midpoint.

Chicago led the whole way after Anderson homered to left on the first pitch from Clay Buchholz (3-7) in the right-hander's return to Boston's rotation after spending about a month in the bullpen.

Buchholz recovered after the rocky start and pitched pretty well, just not nearly as well as Sale.

"He was great. I think this is one of his better ones," Chicago manager Robin Ventura said of Sale. "He navigated it very well tonight. I think he was throwing strikes, a great changeup in some tough spots and got a strikeout when he needed it, too."

### Mets 2, Royals 1

In New York, Bartolo Colon's early injury put the New York Mets in a major bind, but they won a battle of bullpens against the best relief corps in baseball and defeated the Kansas City Royals in a World Series rematch.

Yoenis Cespedes hit his 18th home run and Asdrubal Cabrera also connected for New York, which had lost three straight and six of eight.

### Dodgers 3, Nationals 2

In Los Angeles, Yasmani Grandal hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning off starter Tanner Roark, lifting Los Angeles to a come-from-behind victory.

The Dodgers rallied for their season-high fifth straight victory and seventh in their last eight, and will go for the series sweep on Wednesday.

### Indians 6, Rays 0

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber threw a three-hitter, and Cleveland got its fifth straight win.

Kluber (7-7) took a one-hitter into the ninth before Brad Miller and Evan Longoria singled with one out. Kluber retired the final two hitters for his third career shutout.

### Cardinals 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Matt Carpenter and Matt Holliday homered to back Adam Wainwright, and St. Louis won its second straight game after going 0-5 on its first winless homestand of at least two series since 1983.

### Giants 15, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Angel Pagan hit a grand slam during a seven-run fourth inning and Johnny Cueto shut down Pittsburgh into the seventh.

Cueto (11-1) moved into a tie for the National League lead in wins by extending his career-best winning streak to eight and improving to 19-4 against the Pirates.

### Astros 3, Angels 2

In Houston, Carlos Correa hit a two-run single to right-center field with no outs in the ninth inning to cap the Astros' rally.

After Huston Street (2-1) loaded the bases with two walks and an infield single, Correa laced a 3-2 pitch into the gap, scoring George Springer and Marwin Gonzalez.

### Tigers 4, Mariners 2

In Detroit, Mike Aviles drove in the tiebreaking run with an infield single in the eighth inning for Detroit.

Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer off Justin Verlander in the sixth to give the Mariners a 2-0 lead, but Detroit scored a run in the sixth and another in the seventh to tie it.

### Diamondbacks 4, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Yasmany Tomas and Peter O'Brien homered, and Patrick Corbin threw 6 1/3 solid innings to help Arizona get its fifth straight win.

The Blue Jays stranded seven runners and wasted a strong outing from Marco Estrada (5-3).

### Padres 10, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Matt Kemp doubled to spark a four-run seventh inning against the bullpen, and San Diego overcame two home runs and five RBI by Pedro Alvarez.

San Diego trailed 6-3 before batting around in the seventh. Kemp got things started with a double off Mychal Givens (5-1).

### Reds 8, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer, Zack Cozart homered along with a two-run triple and Cincinnati ended Texas' season-best winning streak at seven games.

Texas starter Colby Lewis (6-1) had the best season-opening winning streak of his career snapped.

### Rockies 8, Yankees 4

In New York, Charlie Blackmon led off the game with a home run and later connected for another solo drive, and Nolan Arenado hit his major league-leading 21st homer for Colorado

Chad Bettis (6-5) beat Ivan Nova (5-5) for the second time in a week.

### Athletics 5, Brewers 3

In Oakland, Yonder Alonso hit a two-out, tiebreaking single in the seventh inning and Marcus Semien followed with a two-run triple for Oakland.

Vogt tripled leading off the seventh against reliever Will Smith (1-2).

### Twins 14, Phillies 10

In Minneapolis, Kurt Suzuki went 4 for 5 with a career-high six RBI, including a two-run homer, and Minnesota gave Philadelphia its eighth straight defeat.

Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run triple in a four-run first inning against starter Aaron Nola (5-7).

### Braves 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Jace Peterson hit a tying two-run home run in the eighth inning and a go-ahead RBI single in the 10th to lift Atlanta.

Chris Withrow (2-0) got five outs to earn the win and Arodys Vizcaino picked up his eighth save in 10 chances for the Braves.

## LeBron, Cavs ready to parade city streets as champions

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—While playing in Miami, LeBron James regretted not winning an NBA title in Cleveland.

"I wish I could have won one there," he told the AP in 2012 before a practice with the U.S. Olympic team at the London Games. "I could only imagine how the parade would have been down East 9th Street."

He's about to find out.

Cleveland is throwing a parade that's been on hold for 52 years.

On Wednesday, hundreds of thousands of fans are expected to line downtown streets to celebrate James and the Cavaliers winning the NBA title and giving the city its first major professional sports championship since 1964.

The parade is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. in the plaza next to Quicken Loans Arena, which was the epicenter of Sunday night's massive party when the Cavs completed their historic comeback by rallying from a 3-1 deficit to stun the Golden State Warriors in the seven-game series. Cleveland is the first team in the NBA Finals to come back from that far down.

James, who delivered on his promise to win a title for his home state in his second year back with the Cavs after four years with the Heat, will ride with teammates on floats. The procession will leave "The Q" and travel south past Progressive Field, home of the Indians, before heading down Carnegie Avenue. The 60-unit parade with floats, vehicles and Ohio State's renowned marching band will then make a left onto East 9th Street—a main drag connecting the Cavs' home arena with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on the shores of Lake Erie.

The parade will conclude with a massive rally at Mall B, a large outdoor public space where James and other celebrities are expected to speak.

Officials have not provided an estimate for the parade's crowd, but more than 10,000 fans greeted the Cavs when they arrived at Hopkins International Airport on Monday, hours after their dramatic 93-89 win in Game 7.

The city will be well prepared, and the humongous crowd will serve as a perfect dress rehearsal for next month's Republican National Convention, which will be held at Quicken Loans now undergoing a makeover.

While Cleveland hosts other parades like a popular one on St. Patrick's Day, there hasn't been a sports parade of this magnitude since 1995, when the Indians were honored for their first appearance in the World Series since 1954.

## *Walton finally reports to Lakers, sees bright future*

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** (AP)—Luke Walton realizes he is reporting to his dream job a little late.

The Los Angeles Lakers' new head coach is determined to catch up quickly as he starts the biggest project of his life.

The Lakers formally introduced the 36-year-old Walton on Tuesday, 53 days after they hired the Golden State assistant coach to lead their rebuilding from the worst season in franchise history.

"I'm so excited to get after it here," said Walton, who played nine seasons and won two titles as a Lakers forward.

After wowing Lakers owner Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak in a late-April interview, Walton still completed his second season as an assistant to Steve Kerr with the Warriors, who lost Game 7 of the NBA Finals on Sunday.

With the sting of that loss still fresh, Walton drove down from Oakland on Monday and immediately got to work with the franchise that drafted him in 2003. The Lakers are starting from the floor after Kobe Bryant's retirement and a 17-65 season, but Walton only sees opportunity.

"I think we're in an exciting time," Walton said. "We have extremely talented young players. We have a ton of money to spend in free agency. We have draft picks this year, and the fact that Mitch and Jimmy Buss trusted me with this, in being part of this rebuilding, post-Kobe era, just means the world to me."

# McIlroy opts out of Rio Olympics over Zika concerns

**DUBLIN** (AP)—Golfer Rory McIlroy became one of the most high-profile sports stars to opt out of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics because of concerns about the Zika virus, saying Wednesday it is "a risk I am unwilling to take."

"After speaking with those closest to me, I've come to realize that my health and my family's health comes before anything else," the four-time major winner said in a statement released by his management company.

The fourth-ranked McIlroy was scheduled to play for Ireland as golf makes its return to the Olympics for the first time since 1904.

The Olympic Committee of Ireland (OCI) said it was "extremely disappointed" not to have McIlroy on its team.

"However, as we have always said, it is down to the individual and of course we respect his decision, which he has taken for personal reasons," the OCI said in a statement.

The 27-year-old McIlroy said this month that he and his fiancee, Erica Stoll, may consider starting a family "in the next couple of years."

"Even though the risk of infection from the Zika virus is considered low," McIlroy said, "it is a risk nonetheless and a risk I am unwilling to take."

AP

In this Saturday, June 18, 2016 file photo, Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the ninth hole during the rain delayed second round of the U.S. Open golf championship at Oakmont Country Club, in Oakmont, Pa. McIlroy says he will not be competing in the golf tournament at the Rio de Janiero Olympics because of concerns over the Zika virus, it was reported Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

Australian golfer Marc Leishman has already pulled out of the Olympic tournament, citing concerns over the health of his family because of the mosquito-borne virus which is linked to severe birth defects and possible neurological problems in adults.

Leishman's wife, Audrey, nearly died last year from toxic shock syndrome.

Adam Scott, Louis Oosthuizen, Charl Schwartzel and Vijay Singh have also said they won't compete at Rio, mostly due to scheduling commitments.

Last month, 150 health experts issued an open letter to the U.N. health agency calling for the games to be delayed or relocated "in the name of public health." The agency, the World Health Organization, responded that such steps would "not significantly alter the international spread of Zika virus."

The OCI said it has been taking its lead on the Zika situation from the International Olympic Committee.

"They have provided us with every assurance and we have total confidence that the games will be safe for all athletes," the Dublin-based organization said.

McIlroy, who has won three of the four majors in golf, had been eligible to compete for either Britain or Ireland at the Olympics. He eventually chose Ireland, which he had represented throughout his amateur career and twice in the World Cup.

"I trust the Irish people will understand my decision," McIlroy said. "The unwavering support I receive every time I compete in a golf tournament at home or abroad means the world to me.

"I will continue to endeavor to make my fans and fans of golf proud with my play on the course and my actions off it."

### Russian Olympians could compete under their own flag

Meanwhile, Some Russian track and field athletes could be competing under their own flag at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics after all.

Leaders of the International Olympic Committee and track's world governing body appeared split Tuesday over the terms of participation of any Russian athletes cleared to compete at the games.

While upholding last week's IAAF decision to ban Russia's track team for systematic doping, Olympic leaders did not accept the federation's position on a key issue: that a neutral flag would represent the few athletes given dispensation to apply to compete if they live outside Russia and have undergone rigorous testing.

IOC President Thomas Bach said if any Russians are deemed eligible by the IAAF, they would compete under the Russian flag.

# Saipan international fishing tourney next month

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 32nd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 9 and 10.

Game fish categories are: Bill Fish (1st -3rd), Yellow Fin (1st-3rd), Wahoo (1st -3rd), Mahi Mahi (1st-3rd), and Skipjack (1st-3rd). Prizes will also be awarded for total weight and grand prize, while SFA will award a special $10,000 prize to the first participant to land a marlin weighing over the record 9421bs.

"The Saipan International Fishing Tournament is a weekend of camaraderie, as well as competition, and we look forward to welcoming all returning and new fishermen next month," said SFA PR and ad chairman Martin Duenas.

This year, a Marianas Trench food festival is also being proposed and will be hosted by another organization in tandem with the tournament. The festival would highlight fresh seafood sampling on-site at Smiling Cove Mariana.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion expressed support for the new festival.

"As a form of sports fishing promotion, MVA has supported the Saipan International Fishing Tournament through the years with financial contributions, as well as manpower and PR support," said Concepcion. "We're also excited about the new idea of a seafood festival for visitors and residents, and MVA will join the list of sponsors this year to see if it's an event that can have longevity and popularity with our visitors."

The tournament registration cost is $150 per boat, inclusive of a captain and one crew member. Each additional angler is $25. Last year, more than 70 boats and 200 fishermen and crew competed in the two-day fishing derby.

As a requirement, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit will again conduct boat safety inspections. Participants needing to have their boat inspected from July 4 to 8 should contact the Boating Safety office at 664-9180 to arrange for an appointment.

The awards ceremony will be held on July 11. The SFA will produce a souvenir tournament program booklet, to be provided to all participating captains and crew members. Tournament entry forms, rules, and schedule of events are now available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com and at Fishing Tackle.

For more information about the event, contact MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at 664-3200, email ediaz@mymarianas, or log on to the SFA website at www.sfacnmi.com. ***(PR)***

## LEE

*From Page 28*

half of the main draw and will be facing New Zealand and No. 9 seed Stella Cliffe for a spot in the quarterfinals. Cliffe set up a third round match against Lee after eliminating Australia's Luciana Kunkel, 6-0, 6-3.

Regardless of the results of Lee's match versus Cliffe, the former had already surpassed her performance in the same ITF Juniors competition last year. The 14-year-old player dropped her singles debut in the South Pacific Open, losing to Hong Kong's Claudia Ng, 0-6 3-6. In the doubles, she partnered with Palau's Ayana Rengiil and they prevailed over Japan's Sophie Hamada and Hong Kong's Venia Yeung, 6-0, 4-6, 10-3, to move into the quarterfinals. Rengiil and Lee then bowed to Australia's Michaela Haet and the U.S.' Mimi Levine, 2-6, 0-6, in the Round of 8.

Lee is teaming up anew with Rengiil this year and the Pacific Oceania bets are seeded fourth in the group. They will play their first game in the division this afternoon against the winner in today's morning match between CNMI's Tania Tan and the Solomon Islands Vinda Teally and the Japanese pair of Kaeda Senpuku and Shiho Shibata.

Isabel Heras, the third Commonwealth player entered in the ITF Juniors ranking tournament, is joining forces with the U.S.' Bryn Johnson and they will challenge New Zealand's Ivy Mclean and Holly Stewart with the winners meeting Singapore's Maxine Ng and Hong Kong's Wing Sze Yu in the second round.

Heras also played in the singles event, but fell to Japan's Sachicho Sho, 2-6, 3-6, in the first round. Tan faltered, too, but not without a fight, as she forced Singapore's Julia Barden to an extended game. Tan drew first blood, 6-4, before Barden swept the last two sets, 6-4, 6-1, to steal the win.

The 2016 South Pacific Open Junior Championships is a Grade 4 tournament, awarding 40 ranking points to the singles champion and 30, 20, 15, and 10 to the runner-up, semifinalists, quarterfinalists, and losers in the Round of 16, respectively. The doubles champions will get 30 ranking points apiece, while 20 will be awarded to each runner-up and 15 and 10 will go to the semifinalists and quarterfinalists.

## YOUNG

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one game at a time and see how are we going to adjust with the games of the other teams," he said.

Palau will be up against the host CNMI, Kosrae, and Guam. Kosrae delegates also arrived on Saipan in batches with the first making it to the island last Tuesday night and the second early yesterday morning. Guam will plane in today.

MBC Organizing Committee chair Ross Igitol welcomed Kosrae and Palau players officials and were joined at the arrival area of the Saipan International Airport by other committee officers/members, 2015 Liberation Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal and the 2016 Liberation Queen candidates.

"Welcome to Saipan and we're excited to have these players compete in the first-ever MBC. We're expecting good games from our visiting teams and of course from our CNMI team. We're inviting the community to come to the field and support the participating teams," Igitol said.

She added that the organizing committee and other volunteers/officials are in the final touches of their preparations for the opening of the competition.

"Our grounds crew members are working very hard to get the Tan Ko field ready and soon teams will be allowed to practice at the facility," Igitol said.

## CHENTSOVA

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Closing Meet on May 7, 2016. Welch and Villacrusis' PBTs were not listed on the NMISF Closing Meet results *Saipan Tribune* obtained before the group headed to Fiji for the Oceania championships, but the former's time gave him an alternate spot in the B finals of the 50m butterfly event.

The three CNMI male swimmers also swam in the 200m freestyle event and this time Suzuki recorded the fastest time at 2:19.38, which is about four seconds behind his PBT (2:15.38). The 13-year-old swimmer, which is among the youngest competitor in Fiji, was named alternate in the B finals of the 200m freestyle along with Palau's Shawn Dingilius-Wallace (2:16.29).

Welch got a PBT (unofficial) as his 2:24.14 in the preliminary heat crushed the 2:25.73 he logged during the NMISF's final meet for the 2015-2016 season last month. Villacrusis timed in at 2:22.53, over two seconds off his PBT (2:20.15).

# 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Sam Ryu returns to Eugene Park during their boys U14 singles game in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships last week at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Eugene Park serves to Sam Ryu.

Rintaro Miyawaki hits from the baseline during his boys 14 singles match against Guam's Dakota Gibson.

Coume Kaga makes a backhand slice during her girls U12 singles game over the Federated State of Micronesia's Leilah Etscheit.

Maria Gregoire serves during her and Asia Raulerson's U14 doubles match versus the Federated State of Micronesia's Tatiano Panuelo and Guam's Jocelyn Tenai at Kanoa Resort courts.

Conatsu Kaga bends for a return, while teammate Malika Miyawaki looks on during their U14 doubles tiff against the Federated State of Micronesia's Anna Skilling and Isabel Garcia.

Asia Raulerson uses her both hands for a return to Malika Miyawaki.

Tony Kim goes for a backhand return to Robbie Schorr during their boys U14 singles match.

Robbie Schorr tries to keep his balance while returning a shot from Tony Kim.

Messi leads Argentina over US, into Copa final

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Sports

Sale first to 12 wins, White Sox beat Red Sox

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# Chentsova qualifies for finals

## Lee wins opener in another Junior ranking tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is back in Fiji and quickly buckled down to work, winning her opening match in the singles event in the 2016 South Pacific Open Junior Championships.

Lee, who returned to Lautoka after her finals appearance in both the singles and doubles competitions in the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie in Noumea, New Caledonia, last week, defeated Japanese qualifier Hiroka Furuya in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, to make it to the third round of the event.

The CNMI player is seeded fifth in the singles and got a bye in the first round before meeting Furuya in the second. She is at the bottom

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Carol Lee is back in Fiji, hoping to gain more ranking points in the 2016 South Pacific Open Junior Championships.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova, seen here competing in the 16th FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia, is in Fiji participating in the XI Oceania Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova made it to the B finals of her first two events in the XI Oceania Championships.

The 18-year-old swimmer first raced in the 200m freestyle event last Tuesday at the Damodar National Aquatic Centre in Suva, Fiji, and timed in at 2:17.17. She was ranked No. 19 out of the 25 swimmers in the preliminary heats to gain a spot in the B finals. New Zealand's Helena Gasson topped the qualifier with her 2:02.45 to lead seven other swimmers in the A finals.

In the final races, Chentsova had a faster time, clocking in at 2:16.99 to finish fifth in her group, while Australia's Acacia Wildin-Snedden won the gold medal in the A finals after submitting 2:02.37 and New Zealand's Monique King (2:05.67) ruled the B finals.

Up next for Chentsova was the 100m backstroke event and her 1:16.86 in the preliminary race earned her another stint in the B finals. The CNMI swimmer went on to post a better time in the finale after completing the two-lap swim in 1:16.41.

New Zealand's Gabrielle Fa'amausili led both the preliminary and A finals after logging 1:04.32 and 1:02.38, respectively, while Fiji's Adi Kinisimere Naivulu prevailed in the B finals with her 1:10.17.

Meanwhile, three other CNMI swimmers—Salofi Welch, Christian Villacrusis, and Lennosuke Suzuki—are competing in the Oceania championships and had their debuts last Tuesday.

Suzuki, Welch, and Villacrusis all raced in the 50m butterfly on Day 1 of the swimming competition. Welch registered the fastest time among the three after completing the sprint in 30.07 seconds, while Villacrusis clocked in at 31.17. Suzuki, on the other hand, tallied 31.92 seconds, which is his new personal best (unofficial, pending confirmation from Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation). Suzuki's previous PBT was the 32.40 seconds he submitted during the NMISF

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## Young Palau team all set for MBC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palau is fielding a young squad in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic that will kick off this Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Team coordinator Atley Kazuma said their players are in the 17 to 33 age range and majority of them are competing in an off-island tournament for the first time. Kazuma and the 21 members of the Palau team arrived on Saipan in batches yesterday in time for the start of the MBC this weekend.

"Actually, this group is one of our two teams. Our other squad is in Korea for a separate tournament. We have a lot of young guys on this team, which also has four of our national players. This MBC is a good exposure for our young players," said Kazuma, who is Palau's baseball development officer.

Kazuma added that Palau players seeing action in the MBC came from the teams participating in their own baseball league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Palau players and officials are joined by Micronesian Baseball Classic Organizing Committee officials, 2015 Liberation Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal, and the 2016 Liberation Queen candidates for a group photo taken at the arrival area of Saipan International Airport yesterday.

Asked about the team's chances in the tournament, Kazuma said Palau players will do their best in every game.

"Our players will go all out every match. We will take it

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